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'CM ready to sacrifice power or continue'

BENGALURU
K.N. Rajanna, a close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the latter was willing to "either sacrifice power or continue in office" as directed by the Congress high command. » PAGE 6

Holistic report cards for school and PU students

BENGALURU
The Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to provide holistic report cards for students in government and aided schools and collegesin Karnataka.

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'No affidavit in SC for extending poll deadline'

BENGALURU
The SEC on Tuesday said it has not filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court seeking an extension of the deadline for the GBA polls. » PAGE 3

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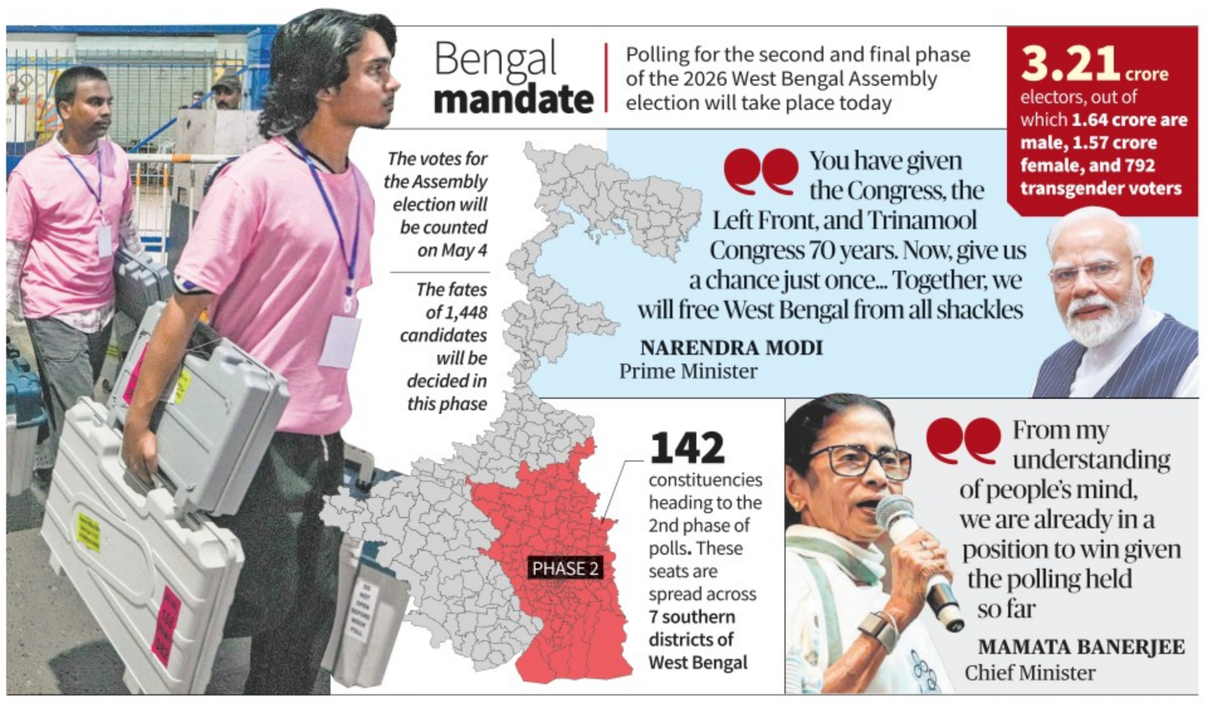

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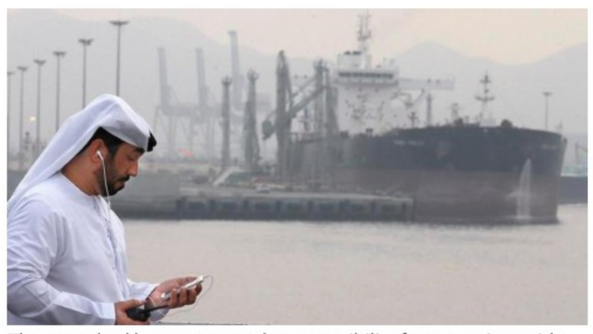
UAE announces exit from OPEC group

Associated Press
DUBAI



The move had been rumoured as a possibility for some time with the UAE pushing back against production quotas in recent years. AFP

The UAE announced on Tuesday that it will leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) effective May 1, stripping the oil cartel of one of its largest producers and further weakening its leverage over global oil supplies and prices.

Making the announcement via its state-run WAM news agency, the UAE said it would also be leaving the wider OPEC+ group, which Russia had led in order to try to stabilise oil prices.

"This decision reflects the UAE's long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile, including accelerated investment in domestic energy production, and reinforces its commitment to a responsible, reliable, and forward-looking role in global energy markets," the UAE said.

"Following its exit, the UAE will continue to act responsibly, bringing additional production to market in a gradual and measured manner, aligned with demand and market conditions," it added.

The move had been rumoured as a possibility for some time, as the UAE pushed back in recent years against production quotas it felt had been too low – meaning it was not able to sell as much oil to the world as it had wanted.

The UAE has had increasingly frosty relations with Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, over political and economic matters in West Asia, even after both came under attack by fellow OPEC member Iran during the current war.

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Growth in industrial output at 5-month low of 4.1% in March

Slowdown in construction and consumer-centric sectors pulls down IIP growth in the first month of data since the crisis began in West Asia

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) slowed to a five-month low of 4.1% in March 2026, the first month of data after the West Asia crisis began, pulled down by a near-halving in construction sector growth rates and low growth in consumer-centric sectors.

Data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday showed that growth in the IIP has been slowing since January, even before the West Asia crisis broke out on February 28. Economists point out that the full economic impact of the crisis will play out over the next few months. For the full financial year 2025-26, growth in the IIP stood at 4.1%, marginally faster than the 4.07% recorded in 2024-25.

According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, the growth of 4.1% in March is "impressive given that the core sector growth was negative for the month". Data released earlier this month had shown that the eight core sectors, which make up about 40% of the IIP, had contracted 0.4% in March.

Within the IIP, the manufacturing sector slowed to a five-month low of 4.3% in March, although this was faster than the 4% recorded last March.

"Domestic manufacturing has begun to bear the brunt of costlier and tighter supplies of petroleum products and natural gas," Dipti Deshpande, principal economist at Crisil, said.

Growth in the capital goods sector, notably, accelerated to a 29-month high 14.6% in March from an already-robust 12.4% in February. While growth in the infrastructure and construction sector slowed to a nine-month low of 6.7%, economists still felt it highlighted strength in the economy. "Importantly, the strength in capital goods and infrastructure goods underscores that investment-led demand remains intact, even as consumer non-durables posted a muted 1.1% rise," Vikrant Chaturvedi, associate director of research at Brickwork Ratings said. The 1.1% rise in consumer non-durables came on a low base as the sector had contracted 4% in March last year.

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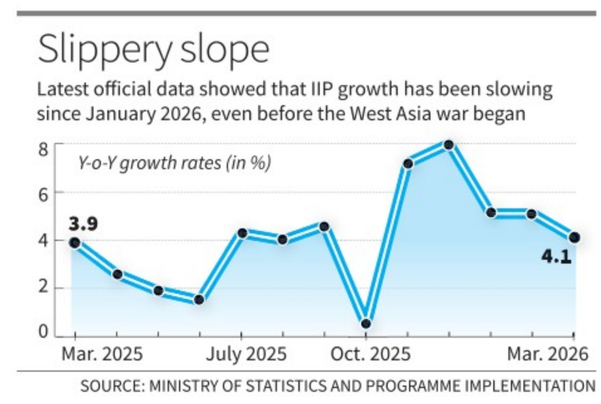

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Anti-Terrorism Squad begins probe into Thane knife attack

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has initiated investigation into the alleged stabbing of two security guards in Thane district amid claims that the accused was linked to "anti-national activities", the police said on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old accused, Jabar Ansari, a chemistry instructor, allegedly attacked the two guards with a knife following an altercation on Monday morning.

Ansari, who had lived in the U.S. for some time, had allegedly approached the guards, employed at an under-construction building in the Naya Nagar area, Mira Road, seeking directions to a mosque.

A sealing notice seen at the residence of Jabar Ansari in Maharashtra's Thane. PTI

As per the police, the victims alleged that Ansari asked them to recite the '*Kalma*' (Islamic verse) and attacked them with a knife when they were unable to do so.

Based on the CCTV footage from the area, the police identified the accused and apprehended him from his house in the same area. The police and the ATS later conducted a search at Ansari's residence.

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Trump 'unhappy' with Iran's peace proposal

Reuters
DUBAI/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump is unhappy with the latest Iranian proposal on resolving the two-month war, a U.S. official has said, dampening hopes for resolution of a conflict that has killed thousands, disrupted energy supplies, and fuelled inflation.

Iran's latest proposal would set aside discussion on its nuclear programme until the war, on hold following a ceasefire announced earlier this month, is ended and disputes over shipping from the Gulf are resolved.

Mr. Trump, whose approval rates are falling amid domestic pressure to end a war for which he has given shifting rationales, is unhappy with the proposal as he wants nuclear issues dealt with from the outset, said a U.S. official briefed on the President's Monday meeting with his advisers.

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Minimum temperature up by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The duration of maximum temperature has been steadily increasing in Bengaluru, which, in turn, has resulted in an increase in the minimum temperature by two to three degrees Celsius.

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) Director M.S. Divakara, speaking at a media workshop titled 'Extreme Heat and its Impact on Bengaluru', said that the duration of maximum temperature has been extending to seven hours each day, resulting in a rise of two to three degrees Celsius in minimum temperature. Mr. Divakara, delivering a special address titled 'Tracking, Forecasting and Managing HeatRisk in Karnataka: What the Data Tells Us', said, "The maximum temperature in Bengaluru has crossed 37 degrees Celsius in the past too. There has not been a significant increase in the temperature this year; it is only 0.2 degrees higher than last year. However, the duration of maximum temperature has been extending."

Women share a dupatta to shield themselves from the scorching sun in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

He added that the minimum temperature in Bengaluru used to be 21 to 22 degrees Celsius, but it has now increased by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius.

"In the last 29 days in Bengaluru, the minimum temperature has been 24 degrees Celsius. Earlier, even if the maximum temperature went above 38 degrees Celsius, the minimum temperature was 21 to 22 degrees Celsius," he added.

Mr. Divakara said that this phenomenon has been observed due to decreasing vegetation and an increase in infrastructure projects and concrete roads.

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A career engineered to perfection

Two Olympic gold medals, as many World titles and sustained dominance defined Axelsen's reign; the Dane's appetite for success shifted badminton's power centre outside Asia; he leaves behind a lasting legacy with one of the most fantastic records the sport has seen

GETTY IMAGES

Devyanshi Bihani

Athletes rarely leave with everything settled. There is usually something unfinished, perhaps a title missed, a conflict unresolved, or the lingering question of whether one more year might have changed the ending.

Viktor Axelsen does not seem to carry that with him. Forced to step away at 32 due to persistent back injuries that made training at the highest level unsustainable, the Dane's exit, announced on April 15, comes not with unfinished business, but with a sense of completion.

"I have accomplished everything I once dreamed of, and more. I've had the privilege of standing on the biggest stages, playing and winning the matches every player dreams of," Axelsen wrote in his retirement post.

Two Olympic gold medals and a bronze, two World championship titles, multiple European crowns, two All England trophies, the only player to complete a career Super 1000 slam, and a stretch between 2020 and 2023 where he reached 11 of 12 Super 1000 finals, winning 10 of them. Axelsen leaves behind a lasting legacy with one of the most fantastic records the sport has seen.

The making of a control freak

His career can look inevitable in hindsight – tall, powerful, technically precise, stepping into a post-Lin Dan era and taking over. But inevitability was something he engineered and not inherited.

If there is one thread that runs through his journey, it is control. Control over preparation. Over recovery. Over environment. Gill Clark, the voice of badminton, described him as someone who left "no stone unturned" in pursuit of improvement. But even that feels like an understatement. Axelsen didn't just turn over stones but redesigned the ground he was standing on.

He moved to Dubai to manage allergies and travel fatigue. He hired specialists outside badminton. A gymnastics coach for movement and a former marine for mental conditioning. He micromanaged nutrition, sleep, and training cycles. When he tested positive for COVID months before the Tokyo Olympics, he paid for a private air ambulance just to control how he recovered.

"To many people, I was sometimes 'extreme', but I always feared I would look back and feel like I could have done more. Living this way comes with a price, but this price is something I have been willing to pay in order to reach my fullest potential," he wrote. That instinct for control did not remain confined to how he trained. It shaped how he played and positioned himself within the sport.

Breaking the stranglehold

Badminton's power structure has rarely shifted far from Asia.

Training methods, tactical evolution, even informal knowledge-sharing flowed largely through China, Indonesia, Malaysia and, later, Japan and India. European players could break through, but they were still, in many ways, operating from the outside.

Axelsen didn't accept that distance.

Early in his career, he began learning Mandarin. Initially, he said,"the biggest thing for me has been to be able to speak with a lot of different players, especially the Chinese players, and know how they do stuff." He added, "That makes you think what you do is right. You can learn something from the Chinese players."

It occasionally offered unexpected advantages. During a match in 2014, a Chinese coach shouted "play faster", assuming Axelsen wouldn't understand. He did, and responded by slowing the game down. When he was at his peak, an apparent limitation could be turned into an advantage.

At 6'4", he altered the geometry of the court with steeper angles, longer reach, the ability to take the shuttle earlier and higher than most. Tall players were not new to the sport. Chen Long had won an Olympic gold with a 6'2" frame, and Denmark's Jan O. Jorgensen, similarly built, had reached the top tier.

But in badminton, height has traditionally come with trade-offs. Taller players often struggle with low defensive positions, quick changes of direction, and the constant forward recovery the sport demands. Chen showed what could be done through control and endurance, building his game around retrieval and rally tolerance.

Axelsen pushed in a different direction. He reworked his movements to suit his frame by lowering his base, sharpening his first step, and improving recovery so he could handle longer exchanges when needed. But he didn't build his game around endurance. Instead, he used that foundation to attack earlier, taking the shuttle higher and sooner to create sharper angles and shorten rallies.

That physical template is already being inherited. India's Ayush Shetty, also 6'4", emerged as the runner-up at the Badminton Asia Championships in the very week Axelsen announced his retirement.

The Dane had remarked that Ayush "reminds me of my younger self." A year earlier, in 2025, the Indian had spent time training with the legend.

"Axelsen is really strong and he has a great defence. I think it is really surprising that he can do all those things with that height...I have to be like that if I want to play at my very best," Ayush had said. He studied a version of the game that had already solved many of the problems height once posed.

The player others had to solve

In the years after Lin and Lee Chong Wei faded, Axelsen, for nearly a decade, remained the reference point in men's singles, the player others had to solve.

He arrived during the 'GOAT' era when the old order was still standing. In Rio in 2016, he lost the semifinal to Chen before beating Lin for bronze, a result that felt less like an upset and more like an announcement by the then 22 year old. A year later, he defeated Lin in the 2017 World championship final.

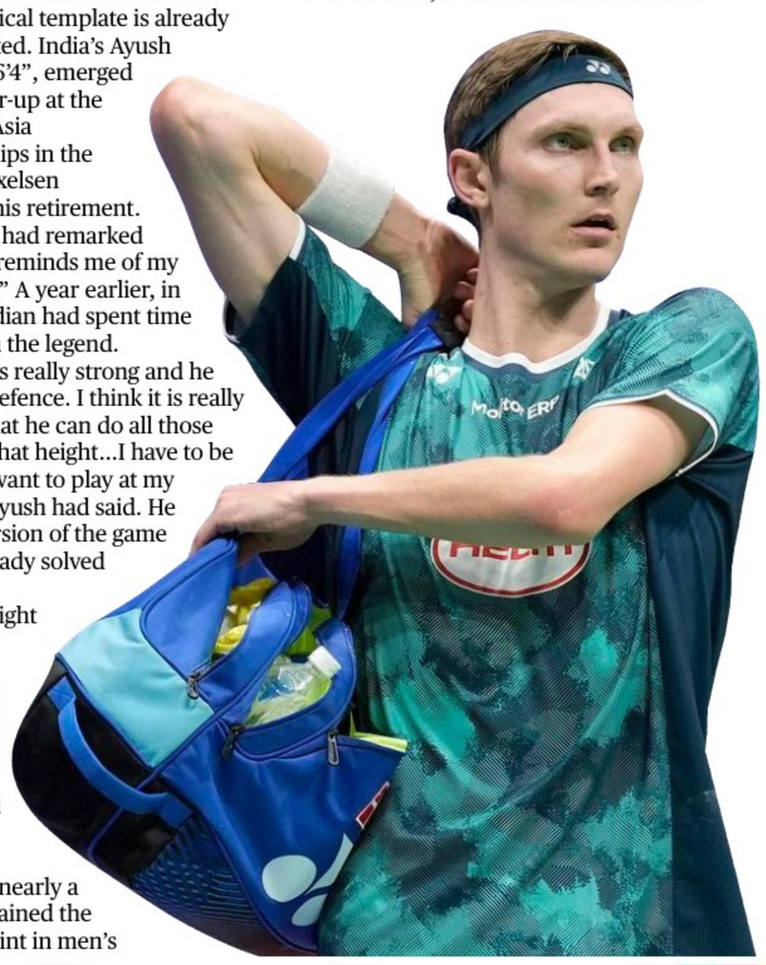
Even during his most dominant phase – when he was winning the Olympic gold in Tokyo against Chen, defending it in Paris against Kunlavut Vitidsarn, and sweeping through Super 1000 events while beating the likes of Chou Tien Chen and Anders Antonsen in finals – there were brief windows when opponents managed to drag him away from his preferred rhythm.

India's HS Prannoy, for instance, dismantled him at the 2023 World championships in a match that exposed how even Axelsen's power could be blunted by tactical discipline. Lakshya Sen had done it earlier, outmanoeuvring him with speed and variation. Lee Zii Jia beat him in the 2021 All England final by matching him in attack. Antonsen, from Denmark's own system, pushed him in matches where there were no secrets left to uncover.

And then there was the rivalry that never fully played out.

Kento Momota, at his peak, was perhaps the closest thing to a stylistic counter. A player who could stretch rallies, absorb pressure, and force Axelsen into longer, more patient exchanges. For a stretch between 2018 and 2020, Momota built a commanding 14-3 head-to-head lead over the Dane. For a brief period before Momota's career-altering accident, their meetings hinted at a rivalry. If it had played out over time, it could have taken on the shape badminton knows well: Axelsen as the Wei figure to Momota's Lin.

That absence does not diminish what Axelsen achieved – two Olympic titles and a 183-week reign as the world No. 1 (the third-longest in history) demand far more than circumstance. But it did leave behind one of badminton's lingering hypotheticals: how different the balance of power might have looked had both operated at full capacity over time.



Pushing against the system

For someone so obsessed with control, it was perhaps inevitable that Axelsen would eventually run into the limits of it.

He could control how he trained, where he lived, what he ate, how he recovered. He could redesign his game, his schedule, even his environment. But the structure of the sport, the calendar, the rules, the federation system, sat outside that control.

And Axelsen was not built to accept things he believed could have been done better. His public criticism of the Badminton World Federation was less a break in character than an extension of it.

He spoke about autonomy in a sport structured around federations. In a post in December 2024, he wrote that he was "so tired of the disconnect between players and BWF," arguing that a system where "everything needs to go through the Federation" left little room for athletes to make their own decisions.

He spoke about players being reluctant to raise concerns publicly, given the power federations hold, but he was keen on his own responsibility "for current players and future generations."

He also voiced about recovery in a calendar that rewards constant participation and about mental strain in a system that still struggles to account for it. He pointed to cases like that of Beiwen Zhang to highlight how mental health struggles were often insufficient grounds to step away, asking: "If we as a sport don't take mental health seriously, then where are we heading?"

He joined Malaysians in criticising Badminton Association of Malaysia for the "drastic and unjustified" two-year-ban imposed on Jia.

The former world No. 1 did so while being one of the system's biggest beneficiaries – filling arenas, anchoring broadcasts, and winning consistently – and yet one of those most visibly strained by its demands, at times sharing medical scans publicly to explain withdrawals. There was a directness to it that felt familiar. On court, Axelsen carried himself in much the same way: upright, deliberate, unmistakable. The headband, the clenched fist, the controlled aggression in his movement; a presence that filled space and demanded response – from opponents in rallies and from arenas that filled for him.

Off it, that same clarity showed in how he spoke, not always diplomatic, rarely ambiguous, and grounded in a sense of responsibility. The Dane leaves with titles, records, and dominance. And with the rare assurance that, in a career defined by control, there was nothing left he chose not to fight for. "I don't regret anything one bit," he wrote.

THE GIST

- Clark, the voice of badminton, described Axelsen as someone who left "no stone unturned" in pursuit of improvement
- In the years after Lin and Wei faded, the Dane, for nearly a decade, remained the reference point in men's singles
- The 32-year-old did not shy away from publicly criticising things he believed could have been done better

Now, holistic report cards for govt. school and PU students

Details such as exam marks, feedback from teachers, and the child's all-round development data will be available in a digital format

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The card will be sent to the parents' mobile number or email ID once in three months.

Instead of a physical marks sheet, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided to provide holistic report cards for students from Lower Kindergarten (LKG) to Pre-University (PU) in government and aided schools and colleges for the first time in Karnataka. Through this digital system, parents can easily track their children's overall academic progress via mobile phones or email.

Details such as exam marks, feedback from teachers, and the child's all-round development data will be available in a digital format.

In private schools, after the completion of each Summative Assessment (SA) and Formative Assessment (FA), all students are given an academic progress report through a separate diary. This report must be returned to schools with the signature of the parents.

However, there is no such system in government schools and PU colleges. Instead, the marks in SA and FA and other academic progress information are recorded on the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal.

Only if the parents request it, or when the student gets a Transfer Certificate (TC) to enrol in another school, is this information retrieved from the SATS portal and a physical copy issued.

On mobile or email

However, the government, which has emphasised digitalisation in the school education system, recently announced that, in addition to physical marksheets, digital marksheets will also be given to students who have passed SSLC and II PU through DigiLocker.

As a part of this, the DSEL has taken steps to issue holistic report cards.

After each SA and FA, all the details of the students, including marks obtained, attendance, behaviour skills, and teachers' comments, will be updated in the SATS portal.

The DSEL has already seeded the mobile number and Aadhaar number, email ID and family ID of all parents with the SATS number of the students.

The holistic report card will be sent to the parents' mobile or email once in three months. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Commissioner for School Education, said, "It is our duty to provide the details of academic progress of the children to every parent. In this regard, a digital system has been developed, and a holistic report card will be sent to all parents' mobile numbers or email IDs. This will enhance the relationship between the school, parents, and children, and will also bring about a major change in the academic progress of the children. We will implement this system from the academic year of 2026-27."

DSEL issues circular against children dancing to 'obscene songs' in school programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schools have been told to select songs that are inspiring/positive/instilling patriotism in children and that reflect the greatness, dignity, value-based culture, and morality of Karnataka.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has restricted children from dancing to 'obscene songs' during programmes such as annual day and any other cultural events in government, aided and private schools of the State.

The Director of Primary Education issued a circular and directed all schools to take necessary measures to ensure that children do not dance to any obscene songs.

This circular has been issued in response to a request from the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Swabhimani Bana in Bengaluru, urging the department to prohibit children from dancing to obscene songs.

"In case any school is found allowing children to dance to obscene songs, action will be initiated against the headmaster and the management of the school," the circular warned. "Sometimes, obscene songs and dances are performed by students during educational and cultural programmes in schools. Performing such dances will have a bad effect on the mental health and moral values of the children and will create indiscipline and harm the sanctity of education," the circular read.

"Strictly prohibit children from dancing to obscene songs while conducting educational and cultural programmes. Select songs that are inspiring/positive/instilling patriotism in children and that reflect the greatness, dignity, value-based culture, and morality of Karnataka. The school headmaster and the school management should be responsible for the selection of songs and dances. Ensure that children wear decent clothes in dance or cultural programmes," it instructed.

CET Manthana programme in second week of May

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of the Karnataka Examinations Authority. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is preparing to conduct the 'CET Seat Allotment Discussion (Manthana)' programme to create awareness about option entry and counselling. This time, the programme will be held not only in engineering colleges, but also in medical colleges.

Executive director of the authority, H. Prasanna, has written to the Commissioner of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education and the Director of Medical Education, stating that a two-day discussion programme will be organised in the second week of May. Last year, many complaints were received that students were making several mistakes in option entry. Based on this, the Higher Education Minister had suggested organising such awareness programmes. Accordingly, a one-day discussion on counselling was conducted in government and aided engineering colleges, which received a good response. As a result, this year, government and aided medical colleges have also been included in the programme, said Mr. Prasanna. To organise this year's programme more systematically over two days, a preparatory workshop on counselling has been scheduled in Bengaluru on May 9.

He has requested the heads of both departments to nominate three active lecturers from each college. Government or guest lecturers may also be sent to the workshop. Participants will be provided TA/DA by the Authority.

'Register all students who failed SSLC exam-1 for exam-2'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa has instructed all Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) to register all the students who failed in this SSLC exam-1 for the upcoming exam-2 and take the necessary steps to equip them academically.

A total of 45,415 students have failed in the SSLC exam-1 this time. While 20,691 students have failed in one subject, 10,509 in two subjects, 6,103 in three subjects, 3,799 in four subjects, 2,552 in five subjects, and 1,716 students have failed in all subjects.

"It is the responsibility of the government and the School Education Department to make the educational future of every student bright. It is my and the government's firm hope that no student should be disappointed and cut their education short due to the exam results. Therefore, with the great intention of not causing any financial burden to the students and parents, the government will bear the exam fee this time too, like last year. Thus, students can register and appear for the exam completely free of cost," he said. In addition, students who wish to further improve their results have also been given an opportunity to appear for this exam-2, he added.

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A BG-BGE

Why science and scientists must learn to celebrate failures

Narratives that present scientific experiments as a smooth story of success are counter-effective; to ensure science remains dynamic, innovative, and honest, it is necessary to foster a culture of appreciating and learning from failure rather than hiding it

Biju Dharmapalan

Failure is part and parcel of research but many scientists consider discussing it in a scientific forum to be taboo.

Laboratories are littered with unfinished experiments and inconclusive facts and theories that failed to stand the test of study. However, when science is being communicated – whether to funding bodies, professional journals, or audiences – it comes across as a smooth story of success. Just narratives are counter-effective.

To ensure science is dynamic, innovative, and honest, we have to foster a culture of appreciating and learning from failure rather than hiding it.

In its essence, science progresses by trial and error. A scientist postulates hypotheses while anticipating that many of them will be discarded. Every unsuccessful experiment sharpens the edges of knowledge and guides further investigation.

However, systems of science such as funding, publication, and career progression are skewed towards successes alone. Grants are generally awarded on the basis of promising results and a large volume of papers, and in favour of those with positive results. Unsuccessful or negative outcomes are often overlooked, leading to a biased ecosystem in which only success is allowed to be seen.

Not to be stigmatised

In the early 1980s, Australian scientists Barry Marshall and Robin Warren claimed that a bacterium called *Helicobacter pylori* caused peptic ulcers. Papers on the idea were however rejected by journals and dismissed by the gastroenterological establishment; the latter had long held that the stomach was too acidic for microbes. (Of course, there was also reasoned scepticism in pockets of the research community, which did not think that the duo had provided sufficient evidence for their hypothesis.)

They were unable to get their findings published and were also not taken seriously, but they had reasons to believe they were right. Then, in 1984, Mr. Marshall famously drank a broth containing *H. pylori* bacteria, expecting he would develop ulcers in around a year and thus prove to the research community that their idea had merit. Rather than a year, he developed symptoms of gastritis within a few days.

The duo won a Nobel Prize in 2005 for their work on identifying *H. pylori* as a cause of gastritis and peptic ulcers. It was a testament to how publication bias allowed a treatable condition to go untreated for years because the system had no process or culture to deal with what it perceived to be a failure.

To really embrace failure, science may need to draw inspiration from domains beyond academia. The technology sector, particularly in entrepreneurial ecosystems, has long embraced a "fail fast, fail often" philosophy. Here, failure is not to be stigmatised but treated as a stepping stone, an essential part of iterative learning.

Knowledge gambit: Science progresses by trial and error and every unsuccessful experiment guides further investigation. SASUN BUGHDARYAN/UNSPLASH

Psychological aspect

While academic science cannot replicate this model entirely, given its different stakes and responsibilities, it can certainly adopt its underlying mindset: that failure is informative rather than shameful. Another valuable analogy is in sports. Athletes incorporate replays and coaching sessions to analyse their failures and convert them into learning opportunities. However, failures in science do not tend to include well-orchestrated reflection.

Some changes are commendable. New publication formats like 'registered reports' – where scientists commit to publishing the results of an experiment even before they begin it, whether they are positive or negative – are shifting the focus from results to research design and thus to methodological rigour. Nonetheless, these efforts are still spreading their wings. The major transformation the enterprise as a whole requires in mainstream practice is pending.

There is always the possibility that experiments do not pay off without a clear explanation, and researchers internalise failure as personal rather than as a natural occurrence in the process of intricate enquiry. This psychological aspect is especially important to novice researchers.

There is always the possibility that experiments do not pay off without a clear explanation, and researchers internalise failure as personal rather than as a natural occurrence

In a highly competitive environment where not everyone feels safe at work, the fear of failure may lower the incentive to take risks. This makes researchers more inclined towards safer, incremental projects rather than risky, innovative ideas. Such a fear of risk can eventually impede the pace of scientific development.

Communicating science

A culture change is thus much needed. Younger scientists would like to see their senior counterparts and principal investigators set good examples by talking openly about their failures and uncertainties. Mentorship should also not be limited to success: it should also openly deal with setbacks. People can become more resilient and honest in their intellectual practices by acknowledging that doubt and failure are parts of science.

Funding bodies and institutions can also play a role. The criteria of evaluation need to shift from the success of specific research outcomes to the quality of the research questions, research methods, and the lessons learnt. Grant proposals and academic CVs can include sections that document and articulate failures as part of the research experience. Establishing platforms to share negative findings and failed experiments could also contribute to a richer scientific ledger. Through open science projects and online archives, novel possibilities are available to share such knowledge, minimise repetition, and foster collaboration.

Notably, the public communication of science needs to change as well. The representation of science as a succession of discoveries creates unrealistic expectations and diminishes confidence in the face of failure. Scientists can raise a more informed and appreciative population by showing that science is a messy, iterative, and sometimes uncertain process. This is necessary, especially in the case of developing drugs or going to space, where errors are bound to happen, and it could be the most important lesson to go through.

Science in practice is a long journey characterised by perseverance, failure, and slow success. Science should not conceal these features but accept them. That is when every failure can serve as a stepping-stone to significant and hopefully sustainable breakthroughs.

(Biju Dharmapalan is Dean (Academic Affairs), Garden City University and an adjunct faculty member at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. bijudharmapalan@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Science in practice is a long journey characterised by perseverance, failure, and slow success

In a highly competitive environment where not everyone feels safe at work, the fear of failure may lower the incentive to take risks which can eventually impede the pace of scientific development

A culture change is thus much needed where mentorship is not limited to success with criteria of evaluation focused on quality of the research

BIG SHOT

The Sombrero galaxy is a popular target for amateur observing and astronomical research. Its recognisable extended halo and dust-filled disk are captured in this image from the Dark Energy Camera mounted on the Víctor M. Blanco Telescope in Chile. CTIO/NOIRLAB/DOE/NSF/AURA.

WHAT IS IT?

A face of Pompeii

Reuters

Archaeologists in Italy's Pompeii have for the first time used artificial intelligence (AI) to reconstruct the appearance of one of the victims of the volcanic eruption that destroyed the ancient Roman city nearly 2,000 years ago.

The AI-generated image, released by the Pompeii Archaeological Park on Monday, shows a man ducking for cover while holding a large bowl over his head, with a flaming Mt Vesuvius in the background. It is based on the recent discovery of the remains of a male adult, just outside one of the southern gates of the city, which were lying next to a terracotta mortar that he presumably used as protection.

Archaeologists believe the man was killed by a shower of volcanic rocks, in the early hours of the second day of the eruption, while trying to escape towards the sea. He was also carrying a lamp and 10 bronze coins, the park said.

"If used well, AI can contribute to a renewal of classical studies, illustrating the classical world in a more immersive way," the head of the archaeological park, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, said in a statement.

The once-thriving city of Pompeii, about 25 km southeast of Naples, was buried in the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79, preserving buildings, objects and graffiti under metres of ash. Rediscovered in the 18th century, it is now one of the world's most significant archaeological sites, and one of the most popular tourist sites in Italy, with 4.3 million visitors in 2024, according to the latest statistics.

A view of the Pompeii Archeological Park, near Naples, Italy, December 14, 2022. AP

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Science'

Historians Janaki Nair and Ramachandra Guha, along with actor Prakash Raj, during a book reading of *Umar Khalid and his World,* moderated by Aravind Narrain, at the Bangalore International Centre in Domlur on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Experts reflect on democracy, dissent at Umar Khalid event

Khalid is in judicial custody in connection with alleged conspiracy charges related to the 2020 Delhi riots, and has been denied bail repeatedly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"We need to realise who are fighting for the same cause and not start what Freud may have called the narcissism of minor differences, such as Gandhi versus Ambedkar, Patel versus Nehru, Bhagat Singh versus Gandhi," said historian and scholar Ramachandra Guha, adding that resisting majoritarian forces required drawing strength from all of them rather than setting them against one another.

Mr. Guha was speaking at an event by PUCL featuring readings from the book *Umar Khalid and his World*. The event was held under heavy security, following protests by Bharatiya Janata Party workers outside the venue.

As he read the book, Mr. Guha said, it revealed to him at least eight different versions of Umar Khalid: a writer and thinker; a critic of other writers; a democratically-minded citizen with a passionate commitment to freedom and justice; a prisoner; an individual of enormous courage and an unquenchable zest for life; a friend and family man; a victim of the authoritarian India of today; and finally, a symbol of the better, nobler India that many aspire to reclaim.

Janaki Nair, historian and former professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), added "poetry enthusiast" to Mr. Guha's list of the many dimensions of Umar Khalid.

Recalling one of her conversations with Mr. Khalid when he was her student at JNU, she remembered how he had argued for extending deprivation points, a system introduced at the university in the 1970s to address regional, caste and class disadvantages, to Muslims, pointing out that Muslim students on campus were largely concentrated in the Arabic studies department.

While Ms. Nair did not then agree that there was any kind of discrimination against the admission of Muslims to the campus, she said she was now open to revisiting her position.

"I cannot remember exactly when this suffix Jihad, coded as 'dangerous Muslim', first surfaced. And of course, today has proliferated as a disparaging epithet to not just love, but to land, food, vote, the corporate world and even the deadly coronavirus. I think after today's event, we can even add 'Book Jihad' to the list," she said.

Over the past 12 years, she noted, that Muslims have been vilified, dispossessed, incarcerated and killed.

The book, she added, bears important witness to this process.

In judicial custody

Mr. Khalid is currently in judicial custody in connection with alleged conspiracy charges related to the 2020 Delhi riots, and has been denied bail repeatedly.

"I'm here because Umar is standing and fighting for all of us. He is in prison to ensure that this country doesn't become a prison," said Prakash Raj, actor and director, who participated in the discussion.

No affidavit filed in SC for GBA poll deadline extension, says SEC

The Commission, however, notes that it has brought to the apex court's notice the letter from DPAR seeking an extension

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building. FILE PHOTO

Amid the uncertainty surrounding the conduct of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls, the State Election Commission (SEC) on Tuesday said it has not filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court seeking an extension of the deadline for conducting the civic polls in the GBA area. The clarification followed the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) writing to the Commission seeking an extension of the election deadline till September 30, citing a severe strain on available staff owing to the ongoing national Census and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Commission, however, noted that it has brought to the apex court's notice the letter from DPAR seeking an extension. In a clarification note, the SEC said it has communicated to the apex court that it has made arrangements to conduct the civic polls within the deadline set by the apex court, which is June 30, and has written to the State government to release funds for conducting the polls. "We have brought to the notice of the court the letter from the DPAR seeking an extension, but we have not filed an affidavit seeking an extension," the note from the SEC said.

The SEC noted that it published the final voter list on April 18 and has made preparations for the polls that need to be done from its end. In a letter before the publication of the final voter list, the DPAR had communicated to the SEC that 26,616 personnel had been deployed for the National Census and the SIR of electoral rolls, limiting the availability of staff for election-related preparatory work.

It pointed out that the Census exercise, scheduled between April 16 and May 15, involves extensive fieldwork, including enumeration, supervision, training, and logistics, requiring full deployment of administrative and ground-level staff. In addition, the SIR process is expected to be carried out over the coming months. Government workers are also expected to be deployed for SSLC and II PU supplementary examinations during May and June, further constraining manpower. The previous civic polls were held in 2015, and the councillors' term ended in 2020. Since then, civic body elections have been delayed due to several reasons, including the delimitation exercise. Although the Supreme Court has set a June-end deadline for conducting the elections, there have been discussions over whether the polls will be held within the apex court's deadline.

Flesh trade: Six foreigners detained

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Women Protection Wing has detained six foreigners for allegedly soliciting men for prostitution near Madiwala Check Post, within the limits of Koramangala Police Station.

A team from the CCB Women Protection Wing went to the spot and found six foreign nationals allegedly engaging in solicitation in a public place, and secured all six women.

Upon questioning, the women reportedly failed to produce valid passports or visa documents. A case has been registered, and further investigation is is in progress.

Probe ordered over viral video

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North Division Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) has ordered a probe after a video allegedly showing an inspector being felicitated by a rowdy-sheeter at the R.T. Nagar Police Station went viral on social media.

Terming the incident "very unfortunate", a senior police officer said such actions, if proven true, would amount to misconduct and indiscipline. "This will send a wrong message to society and dent the image of the police force," the officer added.

Sources, however, indicated that the video is suspected to be an old one that may have been circulated with ulterior motives.

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Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 29		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	16:43	SET 04:09
THURSDAY, APR. 30		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	17:32	SET 04:45
FRIDAY, MAY. 01		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:34
RISE	18:21	SET 05:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	36	25

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Police crack down on IPL ticket black marketing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking down on the ticket black marketing operation during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season, the Central Division of Bengaluru City Police has registered 17 cases and has arrested 24 individuals for allegedly selling match tickets illegally near the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Sixteen cases were registered at the Cubbon Park Police Station, while one case was filed at the Halasuru Gate Police Station.

The police have recovered as many as 36 tickets from the accused.

The police deployed plainclothes policemen and have activated local intelligence to keep a tab on black marketing.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Accounts involved in digital arrest scams banned by WhatsApp

9400 The action was detailed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The DoT and the Telecom Service Providers have set a strict new timeline for neutralising fraudulent SIM cards, and aiming at a mechanism to block suspicious cards within 2-3 hours of identification, it said. PTI

Expected reduction in carbon emissions by Indore solar plant

1.46 in lakh tonnes. The Indore Municipal Corporation's solar power plant is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 1.46 lakh tons annually through its 60 MW renewable energy unit. A bulk of ₹308 crore cost of the plant, spread over 211 acres in Khargone district, was raised through a public issue of green bonds. PTI

Investment in the new Google data centre near Visakhapatnam

1.35 in ₹ crores. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday laid the foundation for a $15 billion Google Artificial Intelligence data centre near Visakhapatnam. Mr. Naidu said this project was started in September 2025. According to the CM, the Google data centre will generate "thousands of jobs" for the youth of the State. PTI

Foreigners held in Uganda in crackdown on illegal migration

231 Ugandan authorities said Tuesday that they have detained dozens of foreigners in a crackdown on illegal migration, that the Internal Affairs Ministry suggested was linked to human traffickers and cyberscam operations. Authorities say they acted on intelligence showing large groups of foreigners living or working in Uganda without necessary documents. PTI

Electors cleared by tribunals to vote in phase 2 of Bengal polls

1,468 A total of 1,468 people, who have been added to the West Bengal electoral rolls following the SIR-linked tribunal orders, will be able to exercise their franchise in the second phase of the Assembly polls on April 29, an EC official said on Tuesday. The second phase will cover 142 constituencies PTI

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On TCS harassment and conversion case

Concerns have been raised about the Tata Consultancy Services sexual exploitation and alleged forcible conversions case that involves nine FIRs, related to complaints of alleged sexual exploitation, rape and forcible conversion at the company's office in Nashik, Maharashtra, between 2022 and 2026.

EXPLAINER

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The story so far:
Last month, Nashik Police claimed that they had busted a racket of alleged forced conversions and sexual exploitation at a multi-national company's office in the city. Nine FIRs were registered and eight persons were arrested. Police said they were looking for one more accused, who they claimed is on the run. A Nashik court has heard her anticipatory bail plea and will give an order on May 2. TCS has ordered an internal probe, suspending all the persons named in the FIRs, adding that no formal complaint has been registered with it yet.

GETTY IMAGES

Overview of the sexual harassment and forcible conversions case
The TCS case involves nine FIRs. They are related to complaints of alleged sexual exploitation, rape and forcible conversion at Tata Consultancy Services in Nashik, Maharashtra, between 2022 and 2026.

Timeline of the complaints
On March 26, 2026, the first FIR was registered at Deolali Camp Police station. It was filed by a 23-year-old woman employee of TCS, claiming that since 2022, an accused had tried to convince her into a relationship with him. She said that the accused had asked her to apply to TCS, where he was already working. She claimed that after she got selected, she was allegedly forced into physical relations by the accused, on the pretext of marriage. She further alleged that another co-accused, on learning of their relations, also sought physical favours from her.

She has claimed that three accused – Danish Sheikh, Tausif Akhtar and Nida Khan, used to allegedly speak ill about Hinduism, trying to dissuade her from following Hinduism. She claimed that she learnt in February 2026, that the main accused was already married with two children. She further alleged that the three accused hurt her religious sentiments, that Danish Sheikh kept physical relations with her on the promise of marriage, and that Tausif Akhtar sexually harassed her multiple times.

Police have claimed that the three accused taught her Islamic practices, and convinced her to follow them. The original FIR accessed by *The Hindu* does not mention it, and supplementary statements, if any, could not be accessed.

After the first FIR was registered, till April 3, 2026, eight more FIRs were registered in quick succession, at Mumbai Naka Police station. While seven FIRs were registered by women, one was filed by a man who alleged that he was forced to convert, Nashik Police said. The complainant claimed that he was allegedly forced to eat beef, offer namaz and recite *kalma*. He has told the police that the efforts allegedly started in 2023-24. When the victim's father suffered from paralysis, the accused allegedly said he would only recover if the victim accepted Islam, he told the police.

The other cases pertain to rape, obscene comments, insult of modesty, and hurting religious sentiments by making fun of Hindu gods and goddesses to impress on the victims that they should accept Islam. Police say that the cases pertain to incidents in the last four years, starting 2022. The police have claimed that the accused held senior or influential positions, and allegedly misused their position to take advantage of vulnerable men and women, influencing them or attempting to forcibly convert them.

Steps taken by the police
Nashik Police have formed a 12-member Special Investigation Team led by an Assistant Police Commissioner to investigate the matter. Several stringent sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, have been invoked for sexual intercourse through deceitful means, sexual harassment, stalking, insulting the modesty of a woman, abetment, criminal defamation, intentional or malicious acts to outrage religion, intentionally wounding religious sentiments, common intent, etc. The sections include Sections 69, 75, 78, 79, 49, 356, 302, 299, 3(5) of BNS. In the first FIR, Sections 3(1)(w)(i), 3(1)(w)(ii), 3(2)(v) and 3(1)(s) of the SC, ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989, have been invoked.

According to the police, they were alerted by a local social-political activist after the parents of the first complainant allegedly expressed apprehensions about her changed behaviour pattern. The police thereafter conducted a covert operation in the concerned TCS office, where police teams went disguised as housekeeping staff to gather intelligence. The FIRs were registered after the police spoke with several complainants and asked them to register formal complaints. A woman officer played a key role in gathering information from women survivors of alleged sexual harassment, police said.

Concerns raised in the issue
Civil rights activists have raised concerns about the process, narrative, and impartiality of the probe. They have claimed that cases of sexual harassment are allegedly being portrayed as 'corporate jihaad' or 'love jihaad'. They have sought an impartial probe into the alleged sexual harassment faced by the women, and about the structural lapses in addressing them. They have also raised concerns about an alleged 'media trial', where a woman accused was allegedly termed an HR professional. TCS later clarified that she was neither an HR manager nor responsible for recruitment, but that she was employed as a process associate without any leadership responsibilities. Civil rights groups have raised concerns about the lack of evidence for any externally funded religious conversion network or organised conspiracy.

Arguments by the defence
The lawyers of the accused have primarily argued on two issues: There is no law against conversions in Maharashtra. They have questioned the legal basis for booking the accused for alleged forcible conversions. They also contend that acts of voluntary choice are being incriminated.

THE GIST

- Nashik Police have formed a Special Investigation Team to probe the sexual harassment and forcible conversions case. Several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, have been invoked.
- Civil rights activists have questioned the process, narrative and impartiality of the probe, calling for an independent inquiry into the alleged harassment faced by the women, and the structural lapses in addressing it.

The tragedy of recurring Rohingya refugee deaths

The capsizing of a fishing trawler carrying refugees draws attention to the cost of protracted displacement

Saee Pande

Story so far:
A fishing trawler carrying around 250-280 people, including Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi nationals, capsized in the Andaman Sea in mid-April 2026 while attempting to reach Malaysia. According to UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), around 250 people are feared dead or missing, based on preliminary estimates. The vessel departed from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and was reportedly overcrowded and overwhelmed by rough seas.

Only around 9-10 survivors were rescued. Survivors reported that the boat travelled for about four days before capsizing, with some people floating for over 36 hours before being rescued by passing vessels.

Life-threatening sea journeys
Since the 2017 Rohingya crisis in Rakhine State, over 7,00,000 Rohingya have fled to Cox's Bazar, in Bangladesh. Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law rendered them effectively stateless, denying basic rights. In Bangladesh, more than one million refugees live in congested camps with limited or no access to education and formal work. According to the UNHCR, funding cuts since 2023 have sharply reduced food rations. Smuggling networks exploit this vulnerability, charging high fees for passage to Malaysia, where informal labour opportunities and diaspora links exist.

The 1,500-nautical-mile Bangladesh–Malaysia route relies on unseaworthy boats, often carrying over 200 people with minimal supplies, for a journey that could take 5-7 days Reports by humanitarian agencies indicate that vessels are sometimes denied disembarkation or allegedly pushed back, leaving migrants stranded at sea.

According to a UNHCR report released on April 17 this year, 2025 was the deadliest year on record for Rohingya sea crossings, with nearly 900 dead or missing. The report observes that 6,500 attempted the journey, with about one in seven perishing. The trend has continued into 2026, with over 2,800 departures recorded between January and mid-April.

A comparison with the Mediterranean Sea highlights both parallels and contrasts. The IOM estimates nearly 28,000 deaths there since 2014, as migrants fled conflicts in Syria, Eritrea, and Afghanistan.

Europe's response, though contested, is relatively structured. Following the 2013 Lampedusa shipwreck, Italy launched Operation Mare Nostrum, rescuing around 1,50,000 people. It was followed by EU-led missions such as Operation Sophia, beginning in 2015, which targeted smuggling networks while also supporting rescue efforts. The Frontex coordinates joint operations, while the Common European Asylum System sets standards for asylum processing.

Legal accountability also plays a role. In *Hirsi Jamaa v. Italy* (2012), the European Court of Human Rights ruled that pushbacks violated international law. NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières and SOS Méditerranée have also rescued thousands. In contrast, Southeast Asia lacks binding frameworks. During the 2015 Andaman crisis, thousands were stranded at sea amid delayed responses. Without legal obligations or coordination, responses remain ad hoc.

The governance vacuum
The Rohingya maritime crisis exposes a governance vacuum in South and Southeast Asia. Conflict has strengthened the Arakan Army (a local Buddhist armed group), which by 2024 controlled large parts of Myanmar's Rakhine State, driving displacement in the region. Countries such as India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Malaysia are not signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention, limiting formal protections. The ASEAN's 2021 Five-Point Consensus has been constrained by the non-interference principle and internal divisions between Indonesia and Malaysia versus Thailand and Myanmar, reinforcing policy paralysis.

(Saee Pande is a freelance writer with a focus on current affairs and geopolitics.)

THE GIST

- According to a UNHCR report, 2025 was the deadliest year on record for Rohingya sea crossings, with nearly 900 dead or missing. The report observes that 6,500 attempted the journey, with about one in seven perishing.
- The Rohingya maritime crisis exposes a governance vacuum in South and Southeast Asia.

HC stays CERC's new norms levying higher deviation penalty on renewable energy firms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a temporary relief to the renewable energy sector across the country, the Karnataka High Court has stayed the operation of two key provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC) Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters (DSM) Regulations, 2024. The stayed provisions altered the formula for computing deviation charges, imposed stricter deviation bands, and prescribed enhanced penalties with effect from April 1.

Justice K.S. Hemalekha passed the interim order on a petition filed by the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) and some of the individual renewable energy generators challenging the legality of Regulations 6(2)(b) and 8(4) of the 2024 Regulations.

Altering formula

These provisions sought to alter the computation formula for grid deviations and impose enhanced financial penalties on generators who fail to adhere to their scheduled supply. The petitioners argued that the new framework is draconian and scientifically unfounded, given the inherently unpredictable, weather-dependent nature of solar and wind power generation.

Senior counsel Sajan Poovayya, appearing for the federation, contended that the mandatory prior publication procedure under Section 178(3) of the Electricity Act, 2003, was violated, while pointing out that the draft regulations placed in the public domain did not contain the revised deviation formula that was ultimately notified.

By introducing a "material departure" without allowing stakeholders a fresh opportunity to object, the CERC had rendered the consultative process an "empty formality," violating principles of natural justice, it was argued.

"The draft notification contained one framework. The final regulation introduced a material departure without looping back to those affected. That defeats the very purpose of prior publication," Mr. Poovayya argued. He further submitted that there was no rational basis for the tightened bands and altered formula, describing the move as contrary to expert inputs received during the consultation process.

Earlier DSM regime

Without prejudice to the rights and contentions, Mr. Poovayya told the court that the petitioners were willing to continue to adhere to the earlier DSM regime and pay deviation charges accordingly, including for deviation up to 15%, as was permissible under the last uncontested framework under the CERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism) Regulation, 2014.

Stating that the petitioners have made out a *prima facie* case for an interim order, the court stayed the operation of Regulations 6 (2) (b) and 8 (4) of the DSM Regulations, 2024, against the petitioners to the extent of the revised formula and enhanced penalties, till the next date of hearing.

However, the court made it clear that the petitioners shall continue to pay deviation charges under the earlier DSM regime.

Contractual employee dies at VISL

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A contractual employee of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL) in Bhadravathi died after a cable snapped while billets were being unloaded on Monday evening.

S. Vinod Kumar, 36, was overseeing the unloading of billets when the incident occurred. As the cable snapped, the falling billets struck him, leaving him critically injured. The deceased is survived by his wife and a daughter.

66 sheep, goats killed

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

As many as 66 sheep and goats were killed in a lightning strike near Budur village in Gurmitkal taluk on Monday evening.

The sheep and goats, during the storm, were sheltered under a tree when lightning struck.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my client **MR.SUDARSHAN.V.MURTHY,** S/o Sri.Vasudeva Murthy.B.K, AADHAR NO.XXXX XXXX 1585, intends to purchase the schedule property from **1. SRI.H.K.MURALIDHARA MURTHY,** S/o Late H.A.Krishna Murthy, AADHAR NO.XXXX XXXX 7253 AND **2. SMT.S.M.MAYURA,** W/o Sri.H.K.Muralidhara Murthy, AADHAR NO.XXXX XXXX 9506.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within 1**0 (Ten) days** from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1:- All the part and parcel of the Southern portion Ground floor Residential Property bearing Municipal No.77/26/1 (PID No.54-139-26/1), BBMP EPID No.2021223133, Situated at V Cross, Balajinagar, Vidyapeeth Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore, Measuring : East to West 42.50 + 45.25/2 feet and North to South 21 + 22.3/2 feet, totally measuring 949.78 Sq.feet, and bounded on the :- East by : Road, West by : Passage and Private Property, North by : Property belonging to Sri.B.K.Vasudeva Murthy and South by : Lord Ganesha Temple.

Item No.2:- All the part and parcel of the Southern portion of First floor Residential Property bearing Municipal No.77/26/2 (PID No.54-139-26/2), BBMP EPID No.5962620334, Situated at V Cross, Balajinagar, Vidyapeeth Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore, Measuring : East to West 26 feet and North to South 20 feet, and bounded on the :- East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Property belonging to Sri.B.K.Vasudeva Murthy and South by : Ganesha Temple.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza,
D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi,
Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner: **Sri.SYED SALAUDDIN S/o late Syed Nooruddin,** residing at Flat No.SF-01, 3rd Floor, Park Square, No.12, 6th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore – 560027.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s or claims with the undersigned (along with the photocopies of the documents based on which they rely for asserting their rights), **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Municipal No.32 (Old No.14) PID No.48-9-32, measuring East to West 65 ft and North to South 40 ft, with an AC sheet roofed shed thereon, situated at 8th Cross, H.Siddaiah Road, Bangalore and bounded on the:

East by : Abdul Haneef's property
West by : 8th Cross Road
North by : Private Property
South by : Maqbool Jan Property

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri.SANJAY.B.S** S/o Sri.B.S.Shankar, residing at: No.6/2, Krishna Road, Bengaluru – 560004.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.6/2, PID No.50-28-6/2, New E.PID No.4744301057, measuring East to West 75ft and North to South 45ft, in all measuring 3375 Sq.ft., together with a building thereon, situated Krishna Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Cross Road
West by : Property belongs to Sri.C.S.Mohan
North by : Private property
South by : Private property

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my clients **Sri.R.K JAYARAM and Sri. J VASANTH KUMAR,** have jointly intended to purchase from Smt.S.Hemavathi, Sri. M. C. Dayananda and Smt.Manonmanidevi M V in respect of all that piece and parcel of the **Site No.212,** Present Bangalore North City Corporation E Katha PID No. 4376083507, Old BBMP Katha No.7968/495/120/191/212, Presently comes under the jurisdiction of Greater Bangalore Authority /Formerly under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.5 (Jakkur), situated at **NIRANTHARA LAYOUT, KATTIGENAHALLI VILLAGE, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Previously Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring Eastern Side 62.5 Feet, Western Side 62.5 Feet, Northern Side 40.25 Feet and Southern Side 40.25 Feet and totally admeasuring **2515 Square Feet.,** along with Unfinished RCC Roofed building Ground, First, Second, Third and Fourth Floors with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on:-

East by : Site No.220;
West by : Road;
North by : Site No.213;
South by : Road

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. It shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,
Advocate, SNN Associates,
No.248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main,
1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout,
Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043,
Land Mark – Near Horamavu Signal,
Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM.
M : 99451 59840, 8892799354

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-05/2026-2027 **E-TENDERS** **Date: 27.04.2026**

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India, for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on **IREPS**. **The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S.No., Tender No., (Due Date), PL No., Description and Quantity. 01.** 10251310C 18/05/2026, Development Tender for KIT GASKET (PISTON COOLING PUMP) PL No.16171410, 20 Nos. **02.** 10251312C 19/05/2026, Development Tender for KIT GASKET (OVER SPEED HOUSING), PL No. 16171597, 10 Nos. **03.** 10251314C 14/05/2026, Development Tender for KIT GASKET (FUEL OIL MANIFOLD), PL No. 16171706, 20 Nos. **04.** 10251323C 14/05/2026, Development Tender for KIT GASKET (LUBE OIL SEPARATOR), PL No.16060842, 20 Nos. **05.** 10251236A 15/05/2026, CYLINDER HEAD STUD ASM, PL No.16040028, 10265 Nos. **06.** 10261038 19/05/2026 FRAME & LATCH ASM-RB, PL No.16030382, 62 Nos. **07.** 10251138A 19/05/2026, LUBE OIL STRAINER HOUSING ASM, PL No. 16030374, 85 Nos. **08.** 10251317C, 21/05/2026, Development Tender for KIT GASKET (CYLINDER HEAD) PL No. 16171366, 10 Nos. **09.** 08251205B, Open Tender, (11.05.2026), CYLINDER LINER STUD ASM, PL No. 19110017, 320 Nos. **10.** 03261018A, 19/05/2026, Complete Shell Kit for WAP-7 Push-Pull (Amrit Bharat) 3-Phase Electric Locomotives ABSK-066 Alt-b, Spec: BLW/DES/MISC-784 Rev-4 to PL No. 29171751, 48 Set. **11.** 09261020, 25/05/2026, SET OF HARNESSED CABLE FOR WAP-7 LOCOMOTIVE, to PL No.29600418, 98 Set. The details of above Tenders are available on **Website https://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **https://www.ireps.gov.in CORRIGENDUM NOTICE:- 12. Tender No.:** 09261010 **Bid Inv. No.:** E-01/2026-27 **Existing Due Date:** 01/05/2026 **Revised Due Date:** 20/05/2026 **13. Tender No.:** 09261019 **Bid Inv. No.:** E-01/2026-27 **Existing Due Date:** 01/05/2026 **Revised Due Date:** 06/05/2026 **Note:-** All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

PRO/BLW/S-05 **Principal Chief Material Manager**

/blwvaranasi " Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, Telephone House Buiilding Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended

RC No. 430/2022 IN OA No. 1050/2020
CANARA BANK V/s KAVYA PATIL

in the matter of

(CH-1) Canara Bank, (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank), Basaveswhara Road Branch, Presently Account at SAM Branch, No. 71/7, Sneha Complex, Ground Floor, Basaveshwara Road, Bengaluru - 560 051 **...Applicant**

Vs

(CD 1) Miss Kavya Patil D/o. Sri Shivanagouda T. Patil,
(CD 2) Miss Deepit Patil S/o. Sri Shivanagouda T. Patil,
(CD 3) Sri Shivanagouda T. Patil S/o. Late T. H. Patil,
Defendants No. 1 to 3 are residing at: Flat No. 702, Donata Marvel Apartments, No. 21, Sundarnagar, Gokul Extension, Bengaluru - 560 054.
Also at : E-301, Renaissance Park , 1st Main Road, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru - 560 055
Also at : Survey No. 16.303/1 & 303/2, Dhanagooor Village Kasaba Hobli, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya - 571 475.
Door No. 629, 5th Cross Road, 7th Main Road, Hosahalli Extension, Vijaya Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 040.
(CD 4) Sri Siddarth Sonnad, S/o. Sri Sharanabasappa Sonnada, Flat No. 702, Donata Marvel Apartments, No. 21, Sundarnagar, Gokul Extension, Bengaluru - 560 054
Also at : No. 3, 2nd Floor, MSR West Park, Church Street, Brigade Road, Above HDFC Bank, Bengaluru - 560 001.
....Defendant(s)/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA /1050/2020** an amount of **Rs.63507968.00** (Rupees Six Crore Thirty Five Lakhs Seven Thousands Nine Hundred Sixty Eight Only) along with cost and future interest @10.25% p.a. Compound Interest Half- yearly w.e.f. 04.09.2020 till realization and costs of Rs.209005 /- (Rupees Two Lakhs Nine Thousand and Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully Limitied)

CD Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Liability Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD-1) Miss Kavya Patil (CD-2) Sri Deepit Patil (CD-3) Sri Shivanagouda T Patil (CD-4) Sri Siddarth Sonnad	Compound Interest (Yearly)	10.25% p.a (Exclusive of 2% penal interest)	04.09.2020	02.08.2022	Jointly and severally	63507968

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **02.05.2024.**

Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS)
Recovery Officer-2

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 9113282883
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : Bidadi Branch (0426)

Name And Address Of The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : 1) Borrower And Mortgagor : Sri. Jayaramaiah V K S/o Katappa, Door No. 2055, 6th Cross, Near Oxford College, Udaya Layout, 1st Block, Manganahalli, Bengaluru – 560060. **2) Borrower : Kum. Hitha J** D/o Jayaramaiah V K, Door No. 2055, 6th Cross, Near Oxford College, Udaya Layout, 1st Block, Manganahalli, Bengaluru – 560060.

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 15-04-2026	Rate of Interest (including 2% penal interest)
042661 9021092	Housing Loan	27-12-2014	Rs. 34,00,000.00	Rs. 30,98,105.32	11.05%
162000 731091	Education Loan	16-11-2022	Rs. 21,00,000.00	Rs. 14,58,118.00	11.10%
			Rs. 55,00,000.00	Rs. 45,56,223.32	

Total Liability Amount : **Rs. 45,56,223.32 (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three and Thirty Two Paisa Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 10-04-2026 **Demand Notice Dated : 15-04-2026**

Name of Title holder : SRI. JAYARAMAIAH V K S/O KATAPPA

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable : All That Part And Parcel Of Southern Portion Of Property No. 2055/23/1/221 And Bearing Assessment No. 20,23/1 And 46, Khatha No. 2055, PID No. 150200200300803485, Site No. 221 **Situated At Manganahalli Village, Kodigehalli Gram Panchayath, Yashavanthpur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Measurement : East To West – 58 Feet, North To South – 25 Feet. Boundaries: East -** Road, **West –** Site No. 194 And 195, **North -** Northern Side Property In Same 221 Number, **South -** Site No. 220.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 29-04-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mandya **Canara Bank**

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate
INFANTRY ROAD, #91, I Floor, Infantry Road, Museum Road S.O, Bengaluru-560025 e-mail id – cb1927@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : M/S 5MF AND G TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
No 647, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 7th Block, 2nd Phase, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru – 560085.
FACTORY & WAREHOUSE:-
M/S 5MF AND G TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
#296 & 297, 4th Phase, 5th Main, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru – 560085.
Mr. Srikanth T S (director & Guarantor)
No 647 2nd Main 2nd Phase, 7th Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage,Bengaluru-560085.
MR. NARESH KUMAR RAO (Director & Guarantor)
Archita II, No 304, Top Floor, 1th Cross Ideal Township, RR Nagar, Bengaluru-560098.
MR. MADHAVA UPADHYA B (Director & Guarantor)
S/O RAMACHANDRA UPADHYA
No 448 4 Siddaiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560027.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, **Bangalore Infantry Road Branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s 5MF AND G TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED** represented by Directors **Mr. SRIKANTH T S, Mr. NARESH KUMAR RAO and Mr. MADHAVA UPADHYA B** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrowers"1) have availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That Directors **Mr. SRIKANTH T S, Mr. NARESH KUMAR RAO and Mr. MADHAVA UPADHYA B** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed for the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs. 2, 68,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Eight Lakhs Only)** with interest thereon.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **25-01-2026,** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs. 2,57,53,176.43 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Seven Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Forty Three Only)**, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on **25.04.2026** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate mentioned hereunder schedule C together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs. 2,57,53,176.43 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Seven Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Forty Three Only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/ Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of sanction	Amount
1	1833261005302	MSME-OD	28.11.2018	Rs. 2,50,00,000.00
2	170001660558	GECL	08.11.2021	Rs. 18,00,000.00

SCHEDULE –B

Details of Security Assets :

Immovable : 1. SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 40/1A, measuring 2 acres 26 guntas and Sy.No.11/19 (old No. 11/5), measuring 11.08 guntas, BBMP Khata No.227/40/1A/11/19, Situated at Kenchenahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, BENGALURU, totally measuring 2 acres 37.08 guntas, and bounded on the: **East by:** 30 feet Road, **West by**: Land bearing Sy.No.40/1B1, Sy. No.40/1B & Sy.No.40/1B3, **North by:** Vrushabhavathi River Drian and **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.11/5 & Sy. No.40/2.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 481 Sq.ft of Undivided share, right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the Property described in the Schedule 'A' herein above.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : Apartment bearing Flat No. B-004, in Ground Floor, Block-'B', "GRAND GANDHARVA" Constructed on the Schedule "A" Property measuring 1506 Sq. Feet of super built up area, together with One Covered Car Parking Space in Stilt Floor, right, title and interest in the entire Land. **Name of Title Holder : Mr. Naresh Kumar Rao S/o Mr. N. Panduranga Rao.**

2. SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that Property measuring Three Acres Thirty Six Guntas of land in Sy. No. 57/4, situated in Anjanapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Order of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing No. ALN.(S) (N) SR/73/2006-07 dated 14/12/2009 and presently bearing Municipal No.29/57/4 of Anjanapura Sub-Division in the records of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palika bounded by: **East:** Property of Sri. Krishnappa, presently Bangalore Development Authority Road; **West:** Remaining portion of Sy.No.57/4 of Sri. Krishnappa presently owned by Smt. H K Shakunthala, presently Bangalore Development Authority Road; **North:** Sri Kanchi Varadappa's Land and Sri Hanumanthadevara Inamthi Land, presently water drain and Bangalore Development Authority Property. **South:** Private Property.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 0.31% Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule "A" Property, which comes to 530 Sq. Feet of land share in Schedule 'A' Property.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 604 in Sixth Floor of Block 'SOVEREIGN of 'TULIP' Tower in the project "MANGALYA PROSPER" built in Schedule 'A' Property and Apartment measuring 1188 Sq. Feet of built up area and 184 Sq. Feet of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1372 Sq. Feet of super built up area approximately with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Ground Floor and the Apartment is bounded by: **East:** Open towards Open Space in Block 'Sovereign' of 'Tulip Tower in MAANGALYA PROSPER, **West:** Common Lobby and Staircase in Sixth Floor of Block 'Sovereign' of 'Tulip Tower in MAANGALYA PROSPER, **North:** Open towards Open Space in Block 'Sovereign' of 'Tulip Tower in MAANGALYA PROSPER; and **South:** Apartment No.601 in Sixth Floor of Block 'Sovereign' of 'Tulip Tower in MAANGALYA PROSPER. **Name of Title Holder : Mr. B. Madhava Upadhaya S/o Mr. Ramachandra Upadhya.**

SCHEDULE – C

[Details of liability as on date]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	LIABILITY AS ON DATE 28-04-2026	RATE OF INTEREST (Including penal Interest)
1	1833261005302	MSME-OD	Rs. 2,53,67,978.15	14.30
2	170001660558	GECL	Rs. 3,85,198.28	12.10

Place : Bangalore **Authorised Officer**
Date : 28.04.2026 **Canara Bank**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Venkatesh Patil, Residing at H. No. 1421, HAL 3rd stage, Kodihalli Bangalore - 60008. Have changed my name from Venkatesh to Venkatesh Patil vide affidavit Sworn before Notary Srinivas Reddy dated on 27-04-2026.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

BSC CHEMISTRY Fresh / Experience Male – Age Below 30 Years, Work Place Vallam Sipcot (Chennai) Food Accommodation can be Arranged 9444074727

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule) 1993) in the matter of
OA NO 732/2023 DATE: 15.12.2025
STATE BANK OF INDIA ..APPLICANT
VERSUS
SHRI VINEET KUMAR & ORS. ..RESPONDENT

To,
DEFENDANT
(1) VINEET KUMAR & ORS.
(2) SH VINAY AGARWAL S/O SHRI OM PRAKASH
BOTH AT H. No.231 BRAHAMNAN MOHALLA HAPUR BURA WALEY SHIV MANDIR HAPUR UP - 245101
Also At : R/O 1629, PANNA PURI, GARH ROAD, SHIV MANDIR, HAPUR, HAPUR HAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH - 245101
Also At : OFFICE AT BMTC COMMERCIAL COMPLEX 6TH FLOOR, 80 FT ROAD, BANGALORE, KORMANGALA DISTRICT, BANGLORE, KARNATAKA
(3) MS. SHIVANI, W/O SHRI VINAY KUMAR AGARWAL HOUSE NO.231, BRAHAMNAN MOHALLA, HAPUR BURA WALEY, SHIV MANDIR, HAPUR **Also At :** R/O 1629, PANNA PURI, GARH ROAD, SHIV MANDIR, HAPUR, HAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH - 245101

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 46,06,861 /- (RUPEE FORTY SIX LAKH SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY ONE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **18.05.2026** At 11.00 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing or Physical and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the **"Cisco Webex"** application / software;
(ii) **"Meeting ID"** and **Password** for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal **i.e. drt.gov.in.**
(iii) In any exigency qua that Advocate/ Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23748478.**

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the **15th day of Dec., 2025**

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION, JABALPUR
OPEN TENDER (Two Packet System)

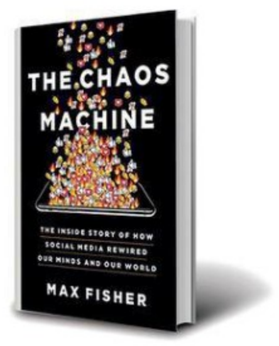
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)/HQ West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders against tender notice no. **DYCECHQWCR-01 Dated: 25.04.2026,** The Closing date will be 1**8.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers will not be entertained against the above tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tender shall be opened at the notified date and time. **NIT No.-** DYCECHQ WCR-01 Dated: 25.04.2026, **Name of work with location -** Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge Face Lubricator (Electronic type) 105 Nos in construction projects of WCR, **Approx cost of the work (In Rs.)-** Rs. 10,92,57,325.20, **Cost of tender form (In Rs.)-** Rs. 0.00, **Earnest money (In Rs,)-** Rs. 6,96,300.00, **Completion period (In month)-** 60 Months, **Time & Date of Closing & opening of E-tender -** Closing at 15:00 hrs. & opening after 15:00 hrs on 18.05.2026, Tenderers are required to submit their bid online through IREPS website https://www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are advised to regularly visit IREPS website https://www.ireps.gov.in to note any changes/corrigendum. Minimum Eligibility Criteria as per tender form shall be applicable for this tender.

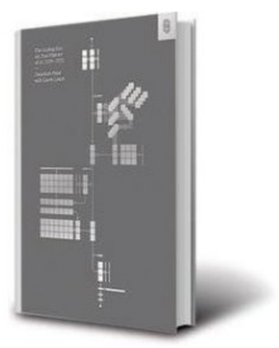
Sd./-
Deputy Chief Engi.(C)/HQ
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

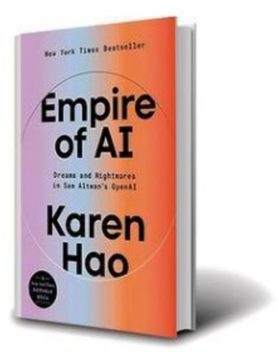
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GETTY IMAGES







Everyone is busy building intelligence, but no one can define what it is

In their books, Karen Hao, Max Fisher, and Dwarkesh Patel explore the AI industry that has become a juggernaut even as it still struggles to define intelligence, measure its costs, or agree on its end goal

Areena Arora

American journalist and author Karen Hao spent years reporting from inside and around OpenAI, and what she found was less a portrait of a company and more an autopsy of the larger idea of artificial general intelligence (AGI).

OpenAI was founded on the premise that if AGI was coming regardless, it was better to have safety and ethics-conscious researchers at the frontier than to cede it to those with fewer compunctions. The CEO, Sam Altman, even went as far as to design the company's board such that it could fire him too if he ever came in the way of its core mission. That board, briefly did fire him, but reversed the decision quickly. Hao traces this arc not as a scandal, but as something inevitable; as an outcome of the ideas that come from Silicon Valley founders who have vast resources and the freedom to push boundaries. OpenAI is described in the early chapters of her book, *Empire of AI*, as "a rare intellectual playground without strings attached, a haven for fringe ideas." By the time she finished reporting, it had become one of the most powerful and least accountable corporations on earth.

No clear definition

What is artificial intelligence? Alan Turing's 1950 paper is widely considered the founding document of AI. In it, he begins with the question, "Can machines think?" and quickly reframes it as the imitation game. He proposes that any machine with the ability to convince a human of its sentience more than 30% of the time, passes his test. He never defined what intelligence really is. By his test, most agentic AI models today seem to "think". But what thinking actually is, remains unresolved, even among those who have staked billions on replicating it.

Hao spends a chapter of her book trying to pin down a definition of intelligence with impressive intensity. The AI industry's working answer, for now, borrows from the "pure language" hypothesis: the idea that all human knowledge is encoded in language, and that AGI might therefore emerge from language alone. The cost for training a generative AI model is already approaching a billion dollars, and projections for the coming years are only shooting up. All this money is being spent on a process whose foundation and end goal both remain largely unarticulated.

The consequences

Max Fisher, in *The Chaos Machine*, shows us that this pattern is not new, but that its consequences have grown manifold. While Fisher's book is ostensibly about social media algorithms and radicalisation, it also holds up a clear mirror to what happens when a technology that shapes human behaviour is deployed before anyone has asked what it is shaping us towards.

The early conventional wisdom about platforms such as Facebook, he argues, vastly understated their power. Their algorithms amplify moral fury, compress complexity into viral fragments rewarded with small doses of digital dopamine, and make polarisation not a bug but an intended, even celebrated, output.

By the time insiders began to acknowledge this, the architecture was global and deeply embedded. Facebook's founding president, Sean Parker, eventually admitted the goal was to consume as much of conscious human time and attention as possible. By then, a billion people were already inside the wormhole.

Max Fisher wrote about a previous technological wave, but there are parallels in the inherited arrogance. The same incentives – engagement maximisation, attention as a commodity, and uncontrolled growth as the only metric of success – now underpin the expansion of AI. Fisher's book, read alongside Hao's reporting, gives readers both a long view and a more immediate story: this pattern has played out before, and in building disruptive technologies, their makers are often aware of the very real human cost of progress – and continue anyway. To be clear, neither author rejects scientific progress, but both hold up an important mirror to what it costs to get there.

The God complex

Dwarkesh Patel's *The Scaling Era* is an oral history stitched together with conversations with researchers, engineers, and thinkers who made the last six years of AI possible. Unlike Hao and Fisher, Patel and his interviewees are not cynical of AI. They are, for the most part, people who believe they are doing something necessary and sacred even as they do acknowledge its shortcomings. For instance, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei in the book says that if agentic AI were to become super powerful and wreak havoc, "we'd have basically no ability to stop it."

The God complex here is not megalomaniacal in the conventional sense; it is more subtle. It is the conviction that because the intelligence being built is unprecedented, the ordinary human frameworks of accountability, consent, and cost-distribution can be changed too.

Patel's book is highly technical, diving into the scalability of AI models and what intelligence is. Curiously, both Hao and he touch on this question and seem to conclude that there is still no unified definition of "intelligence" or "thinking.".

Altman in particular, who is the primary subject of Hao's book, has signed up for Nectome, a startup whose premise is that the brain can be chemically preserved at death to be digitally uploaded to a server later. This is where the pure language hypothesis and the God complex finally converge. If all human knowledge is in language, and language can be extracted and replicated, then perhaps consciousness too can be preserved, transferred, and ultimately made everlasting. The question Turing called too meaningless to discuss has become the basis of an afterlife business. The arrogance is not in the ambition itself; it is in the certainty that whatever the "tech bros" of Silicon Valley end up building will be the answer.

Paying a price

In the meantime, as Hao sharply points out, communities in South American countries are paying a hefty price right now, with their water and land resources. The AI we have has already reshaped medicine, science, and daily life in useful ways. But the industry is not focused on refinement or more environment-friendly improvements to what already exists; it is aiming at something much larger.

What these three books produce, read together, is less a verdict on AI and more a map of its (often) unacknowledged shortcomings. Hao calls these companies an empire – ruthless in their conquest like royal empires of the bygone era. Scaling, discussed in great technical detail in Patel's book, asks an important question: what happens when we run out of data to train models on? Billions of dollars are being spent per model, land and water are being taken to replicate millions of years of evolutionary biology, but to what end? That remains unclear.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here's a quiz on the animated TV series *The Simpsons*, which aired its 636th episode on this day in 2018, becoming the longest-running scripted prime-time show in the U.S.

Sindhu Nagaraj

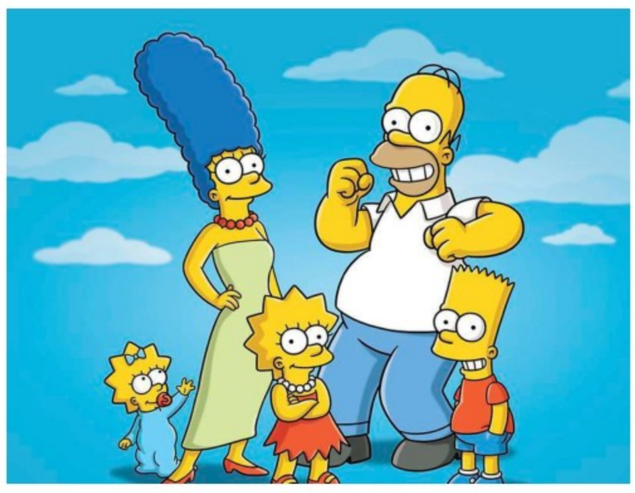
QUESTION 1
Which magazine has named the show the greatest television series of the 20th century?

QUESTION 2
This is the most famous catchphrase used by the fictional character Homer Simpson. It has been adopted into the English language. What is it?

QUESTION 3
What is the name of the greyhound and a cat the family owns?

QUESTION 4
What is the name of the character named after the title character of a celebrated series by Satyajit Ray?

QUESTION 5
What is the name of the episode which mentions billionaire Donald Trump having been President of the United States at one time and leaving the nation broke?



Visual question: Name the characters from the show featured in this image. AP

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Mutiny on the Bounty took place in this year, and in this ocean **Ans: 1789, Pacific Ocean**
2. Who led the mutiny against William Bligh? **Ans: Fletcher Christian**
3. What was the primary botanical objective of the HMS Bounty's voyage? **Ans: Transporting breadfruit plants to the West Indies**
4. Name the remote island where the remaining mutineers ultimately established a settlement. **Ans: Pitcairn Island**
5. Who was the last surviving mutineer discovered on Pitcairn Island? **Ans: John Adams**
Visual: This 19th-century etching captures the dramatic end of the HMS Pandora, wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef. State its connection to the HMS Bounty. **Ans: The Pandora was dispatched by the Royal Navy to hunt down and capture the mutineers from the Mutiny on the Bounty**
Early birds: Erfanally Oosmany | Sudhir Thapa | Haridas Pal | Akshay Kumar Khanna | Kaveesh Sethi

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of the idiom "by the skin of one's teeth"? (B. V. Satish Kumar, Vizag)
Everyone knows that the teeth are not covered by skin. Then what is the meaning of this rather strange idiom? It first made its appearance in the Bible. Job is the man who is believed to have made first use of it. Job suffered many misfortunes in his life, but throughout his trials and tribulations, his belief in God remained firm. "I am escaped with the skin of my teeth" is what Job says in the Bible. What he meant was that he "narrowly escaped".

If you do something by the skin of your teeth, you just manage to do it; you achieve something by the narrowest of margin. Here are some examples.

Narsimha got through his maths exam by the skin of his teeth.

We thought we would miss the train. But we caught it by the skin of our teeth.

What is the meaning of "nickname"? How do you use it? (K. J. Ramnarayanan, Cuddalore)
The word "nickname" is from Middle English "eke name" meaning "additional name". A nickname is therefore an additional name given to someone or something by a group of people – like friends or relatives. When I was growing up, I had a friend who was really tall. Everyone started calling him "coconut tree" and it soon became his nickname. Animals too can have nicknames. You may have a dog called "Jacky", but you may affectionately call it "Ugly" all the time.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "Which class are you studying?" "In which class are you studying?" (L. Velumany, Coimbatore)
The second sentence is correct. The first would be acceptable if you had "in" at the end of the sentence. "Which class are you studying in?" – that's what people who are fond of grammar would say. It's also possible to say "Which class are you in?" Here are a few more examples.

Which city were you born in?

Which bedroom do you sleep in?

How is the word "shoppe" pronounced? (Rajani Krishnamurthy, Chennai)
Most people pronounce it like the word "shop". It is also possible, however, to pronounce the final "e" like the "i" in words like "pit", "hit", and "sit". Even when pronounced in this manner, the stress remains on the first syllable.

What is the origin of 'hat-trick"? (Krishna Kumar, Mumbai)
This is a term which originated in cricket. A bowler is said to have performed a hat-trick when he takes three wickets in three consecutive balls. Nowadays, whenever a bowler performs a hat-trick in international matches, he's given lots of money – either by the Board or by some sponsor. And if rumours are to be believed, even if the Board isn't willing to pay the bowler, there are plenty of bookies who are! Just kidding. In the old days when cricket was a gentleman's game, when a bowler performed the "trick" of getting three wickets off three balls, he got a... You guessed it, a hat!
Published in The Hindu on June 13, 2000

Word of the day

Abominable:
exceptionally bad or displeasing

Synonyms: atrocious, awful, dreadful

Usage: *The refugees were forced to live in abominable conditions.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/J1643b/abominable

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈbɑm.ə.nə.bl̩/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Women PG residents jump out of four-storey building to escape blaze at midnight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Panic gripped residents of Nandini Layout in the early hours of Monday after a major fire broke out in a paying guest (PG) accommodation, forcing around 50 women residents to jump out of the building to escape the flames.

The fire reportedly began around 12.40 a.m. and is suspected to have originated due to an electrical short circuit at a nearby LED signage warehouse. The warehouse caught fire first. The flames spread rapidly to the adjacent four-storey building, which houses a PG accommodation.

CCTV camera visuals captured the women jumping from the building as the blaze intensified. Eyewitnesses said the swift evacuation helped avert what could have turned into a major tragedy.

A few vehicles parked in front of the warehouse were gutted in the fire.

Despite the intensity of the fire, no casualties were reported, though some residents sustained minor injuries. Officials said that had the residents not jumped out of the building, the fire could have resulted in loss of life.

A screengrab from the CCTV footage. The fire is suspected to have originated due to an electrical short circuit.

The Nandini Layout police have registered a case. On Tuesday, a team of police and fire officials conducted a detailed inspection to ascertain the cause.

The PG accommodation wore a deserted look as all residents vacated the premises. Several of them remain in shock, with some yet to recover from the trauma.

"Many of them may not return after this incident. They left in a hurry with whatever belongings they could salvage," said a security guard on the premises.

PG owner Surya N.P. said he was out of station when the fire broke out and rushed back upon receiving the news.

"Half of the building is damaged and everyone has vacated. This was our bread and butter," he said. He has filed a complaint alleging negligence on the part of the warehouse owner and is seeking compensation for the losses.

Residents of nearby buildings, some of which sustained partial damage, have raised concerns over safety in the area.

Preliminary findings indicate that the warehouse, used for storing banners, LED boards, plastic, and fibre materials, may have contributed to the rapid spread of the fire.

Pawan, the PG's management in-charge, said: "We heard sounds and immediately rushed everyone out. The fire took some time to spread, which helped in evacuating all the residents." He further said the fire broke out around midnight.

"We alerted the fire brigade immediately. They arrived between 12.45 a.m. and 1 a.m., and the fire was brought under control between 1.30 a.m. and 2 a.m."

(With inputs from Pratyusha Srivastav.)

Fire damages 20 sheds of labourers at Bandepalya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At least 20 sheds belonging to migrant labourers from West Bengal were gutted in a fire that broke out in the early hours of Tuesday, at Somasundarpalya, within the limits of Bandepalya Police Station.

No one was injured as most of the labourers had returned to their native places to vote, leaving behind a few women and children. Those present managed to escape to safety. The affected families were engaged in rag-picking and garbage segregation for their livelihood.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with the police, rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control. Satish Reddy, local MLA, visited the site and directed officials to conduct a detailed investigation. Suspicions of foul play have emerged.

Police said they have secured CCTV camera footage from nearby areas, and are investigating the exact cause of the fire.

In a similar incident, a scrap godown belonging to another migrant worker was gutted in a fire recently at Lakshmipura under Gangammagudi Police Station limits.

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

WANTED
- RESIDENT PRINCIPAL
- MANAGER HR & ADMIN
- PGT / TGT (Physics, Mathematics, Hindi, English, Computer Science)
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- RESIDENT COUNSELLOR
- RESIDENT WARDEN

hr@gurukulam.com 97786 65476

WANTED
PROFESSORS/ASSO.PROFESSORS/ASST.PROFESSORS
PHARMACOGNOSY, PHARMACOLOGY ,
PHARMACEUTICS ,
PHARMACY PRACTICE
Qualification : As per PCI/KUHS norms
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Salary Commensurate with Experience.
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ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

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(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking and India's Premier Professional Electronics Company requires Ex-Servicemen for its RADAR SBU/Ghaziabad Complex and SC SBU/Bangalore Complex PAN India project sites:

SL NO.	No. of Post & SBU	Tenure	Qualification & Discipline	Experience (Post Qualification)
1.	E-I: SAE UR - 21, OBC (NCL)-11, SC-6, ST-3	Fixed Term 5 years (extendable up to 15 years or date of superannuation (60 years of age) whichever is earlier)	3 Years Diploma in Electronics Engg or equivalent	Ex-servicemen from IAF in the rank of JWO or above with 15 Years of post qualification experience. (as on 01.04.2026)
2.	E-I: SAE UR - 1, SC-1			Ex-servicemen from Army, Navy & Air Force in the rank of JCO or above with 15 Years of post qualification experience. (as on 01.03.2026)

For details please visit our website www.bel-india.in. Candidates willing to apply may submit their application in the prescribed format along with the copies of the relevant documents in support of eligibility in a sealed cover superscribing "Application for the post of Sr. Asst. Engineer, E-I Grade/RADAR SBU" and address to DGM (HR&A), Bharat Electronics Limited, P.O. Bharat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (U.P.), Pin 201010 through post/courier latest by 18th May, 2026.

DY. GEN MGR (HR&A)
'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

GENERAL

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक सर्विसेज़ बोर्ड
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SERVICES BOARD
Advt. No. RBISB/BA/01/2026-27

Recruitment for the Posts of Officers in Grade 'B' (Direct Recruit-DR) (On Probation-OP) (General/DEPR/DSIM) Cadres - Panel Year - 2026 in Reserve Bank of India

Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the Panel Year - 2026:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Vacancies
1	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- General	40
2	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR)	10
3	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM)	10
	Total	60

2. For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of online application and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) on April 29, 2026 (tentatively) and in the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar issue dated May 02, 2026 / subsequent issue. Candidates can apply for the aforementioned posts only by online mode through the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in).

3. Important Dates**:

Website Link Open - For Online Registration of Applications and Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	April 29 to May 20, 2026 (till 06:00 PM)
Phase-I Online Examination of Grade 'B' (DR) - General	June 13, 2026
Phase-I Online Examination of Grade 'B' (DR) - DEPR (Paper-I and II) / DSIM (Paper-I)	June 14, 2026
Phase-II Online Examination for Grade 'B' (DR) - General	July 25, 2026
Phase-II Online / Written Examination for Grade 'B' (DR) - DEPR (Paper-I and II) /DSIM (Paper-II and III)	July 26, 2026

** The Board reserves the right to make any changes in these dates.
NOTE: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in).

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‘Chief Minister is ready to either sacrifice power or continue’

Rajanna’s remarks come amid indications that a decision on leadership and Cabinet reshuffle may be taken after May 4, when results of Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory, along with bypolls in Karnataka, are announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, K.N. Rajanna, a close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Tuesday said the latter was willing to “either sacrifice power or continue in office” as directed by the Congress high command and Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Rajanna also indicated openness to a change in leadership, in an apparent reference to Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, whose supporters have been seeking his elevation. He urged the high command to end the uncertainty, warning that it was affecting both the party and governance.

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and former Minister K.N. Rajanna.

“The Chief Minister has an open mind and will abide by the high command’s decision. All Ministers have agreed to follow the decision,” Mr. Rajanna told presspersons.

“Power is not permanent. Those who lose it try to regain it; and those who have it try to retain it. The Chief Minister is ready to either step down or continue, as per Mr. Gandhi’s directions,” he asserted.

The remarks come amid indications that a decision on leadership and a possible Cabinet reshuffle may be taken after May 4, when results of Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory, along with bypolls in Karnataka, are announced.

On demands that an AHINDA leader should succeed Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said the matter rests with the high command. “We have conveyed our views. The final decision lies with the leadership,” he said.

Reaffirming his earlier stand, Mr. Rajanna said there was nothing wrong in seeking a Dalit Chief Minister. On organisational changes, he said: “If Ministers can be changed, why not the party president? Everything will be decided by the high command.”

He stressed the need for clarity. “As long as confusion persists, it is detrimental to the party and governance,” he said, stating that he would visit Delhi after May 4.

Cabinet reshuffle

On a Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Rajanna said there was an expectation for a more responsive administration and that inducting new faces was not unwarranted.

HC notice to CBI on Vinay Kulkarni’s appeal against conviction in murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered issue of notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a petition filed by Congress MLA and former Minister Vinay Kulkarni challenging a special court’s order of convicting and sentencing him to imprisonment for life for criminal conspiracy and murder of a young BJP leader, Yogeshgouda Goudar, in Dharwad in 2016.

Vinay Kulkarni

A Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Nawaz and Justice Venkatesh Naik T. adjourned further hearing on the petition while giving time for the CBI to file its statement of objection.

Meanwhile, the Bench allowed Kulkarni’s advocate to approach the summer Vacation Bench for hearing on the interim plea for suspension of sentence and release on bail, as well as staying the conviction.

Kulkarni will not be able to continue as MLA if the court refuses to stay the conviction even if it suspends his sentence and releases him on bail.

Elected to the Legislative Assembly from the Dharwad constituency, he was named as prime accused in the murder of Goudar, a 26-year-old BJP zilla panchayat member.

Initially, the State police had probed the case and filed a chargesheet, in which Kulkarni was not arraigned as an accused. Later, the case was handed over to the CBI in 2019 and the CBI filed a supplementary chargesheet in 2020, naming Kulkarni as the ‘main conspirator’.

He was arrested by the CBI in 2020 and the Supreme Court granted him bail in 2021. However, apex court cancelled his bail in June 2025 on the allegations of witness tampering and attempts to influence prosecution witnesses before granting bail to him again in February 2026.

SC/ST communities continue to face land-related issues: Study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka continue to suffer in land-related issues, despite legislations being in place, a study has said.

Many applications filed under the Karnataka Village Offices Abolition Act remain pending even as several kulwadike families were unable to file applications for regrant of village service Inam lands due to lack of awareness about the time window to file such applications. The findings of the study conducted in Tumakuru, Raichur, and Chikkamagaluru by the Alternative Law Forum in association with Samvidhana Samrakshana Vedike and Slum Janandolana Karnataka was released on Tuesday.

It also pointed out at high pendency rates in several districts in terms of disposal of applications for bagair hukum under The Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, some of which are pending for several decades.

A file photo of activists during a demonstration in Raichur, demanding regularisation of bagair hukum land of Dalit farmers.

In many cases, the extent of land being cultivated in an unauthorised manner shown in reports prepared by the village accountants and revenue inspectors is much lower than the actual extent of cultivation, and the applicant has no opportunity to challenge these reports till a final decision is arrived at by the bagair hukum committee.

In villages abutting forests, applications for regularisation of unauthorised cultivation is pending for years owing to a lack of clear demarcation of revenue land. Urging the government to conduct taluk-wise audit of all lands granted till now to determine whether the share of lands granted to SC and ST has been maintained at 50%, the study noted that conflicts and encroachment of land by members of the “upper castes” are being reported since *darkhast podi* (dividing government granted land) has not been carried out as per Karnataka Land Grant Rules 1960.

The study has also said that the number of appeals in cases of acquittals related to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, has drastically reduced between 2016 and 2023. The year 2019 saw the highest number of acquittals at 1,097 since 2016 and in about 398 cases or 36.3% appeals were filed.

The study urged for a performance review of public prosecutors in January and July every year as required by Rule 4(2) of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 and reports of these reviews should be made public.

With respect to chargesheet filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the percentage of cases in which the chargesheet was filed after 60 days had reduced from 70.33% in 2016 to 20.62% in 2023.

In 2016, of the total 1,082 cases, chargesheet was filed after 60 days in 761 cases. However, it has come down to 20.62% in 2023 when in 1,896 cases, chargesheet was filed in 391 cases.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client intends to purchase Property bearing Site No.TS-417 bearing BDA PID No.6000028607 in the Layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West 09 Meters and North to South 06 Meters, totally measuring 54 Square Meters, in Survey No.17/5, situated at 15th Block, Arkavathy Layout, Thanisandra Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on the:

East by : Site bearing No.TS-412;
West by : Road;
North by: Site bearing No.TS-418;
South by: Site bearing No.TS-416.

From its present owners Mr.Mohammed Tahseen Nawaz, Sonof Mr.Iliyas Masood and Mrs.Shaista Afreen, Wife of Mr.Mohammed Tahseen Nawaz.

Persons having any right, claim/objection or interest over the said property may lodge their objections/Claims with documentary evidence within 10 days to the undersigned.

SATYA NARAYANA REDDY, Advocate
SNR LAW CHAMBERS
22, 1st Floor, 10th Main, 100 Feet Road, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Banasawadi, Bangalore-560 043.

IN THE HON’BLE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL, BENGALURU (CCH-74)
O.S. No. 26335/2012
Plaintiff: Sri. Chikkamuniyapp.P
Vs.
Defendants: Sri. T. Venkata Raju (since deceased) by LRs & others
SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No.1(a) to 1(d)

1(a) V. Arun Kumar,
1(b) V. Manjunatha,
1(c) V. Naveen Kumar,
All S/o late T. Venkataraju,
R/at Kakayappa Layout, Opp. Jayaas Advaitham Apartment, Nagondahalli, Immadihalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560066.

1(d) Jyothi, D/o late T. Venkataraju,R/at Kumblahalli, Near Panchayat Office, Kasba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Hoskote 562114.

Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above-said suit before the Hon'ble Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge at Mayo Hall, Bengaluru seeking reliefs of declaration, possession, cancellation of sale deeds, permanent injunction and other consequential reliefs.

The above-mentioned Defendant No.1 (a) to 1(d) are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court of Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge at Mayo Hall, Bengaluru, in person or through Advocate on **15.06.2026 (next hearing date) at 11:00 A.M.** to defend the suit and in default of your appearance on the day specified, the above suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sy. 61/1 Challaghata Village, Varthur Hobli, H.A. Sanitay Board Area (now under B.B.M.P), Bangalore south taluk, Bangalore, measuring 16 guntas out of 1 acre, 5 guntas (including 2 guntas of karab land), and bounded on:

East by : Motappa's property,
West by : Nagappa Reddy's Property, at present Defence Property,
North by: H.A.L Property (belonging to Defence)
South by: Raja Kaluve

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
Deputy Registrar, City Civil & Sessions Court, Mayohall Unit, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff:
S. Vivekananda, VGB Associates,
Bungalow No.3, Jayamahal Palace Hotel, No.1 Jayamahal Road, Bengaluru-560006. Ph: 98454 28653

KSDL aiming to get ₹5,000 crore turnover by 2030

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), set up in 1916 as the government soap factory by Maharaja Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV to utilise surplus sandalwood reserves during World War I, has set an ambitious turnover target of ₹3,000 crore by 2028 and ₹5,000 crore by 2030.

The State-owned enterprise, on Tuesday, announced a turnover of ₹2,016 crore and a profit of ₹507 crore during the March 31-ended financial year 2025-26. Speaking on the occasion, M.B. Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, said that while it took the organisation 105 years to reach a turnover of ₹1,000 crore, it doubled this figure to ₹2,000 crore in just four years.

Speaking at a felicitation ceremony organised to recognise the employees of KSDL and also to celebrate ‘Mysuru Sandal’s’ achievement, the Minister said that while it took the organisation 105 years to reach a turnover of ₹1,000 crore, it more than doubled this figure to ₹2,016 crore in just four years.

“From a turnover of ₹1,375 crore in 2022-23, the company has grown to ₹2,016 crore over the past three years since the present government assumed office, an increase of ₹641 crore in a short span,” the Minister noted, calling it a historic milestone among public sector enterprises.

As of 2022-23, KSDL had a total of 34 products. However, in the past three years, the State Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) has introduced 57 new products, bringing its overall product portfolio to 94.

KSDL on Tuesday announced a turnover of ₹2,016 crore and a profit of ₹507 crore during the March 31-ended financial year 2025-26. FILE PHOTO

This feat was achieved without any additional people recruitment or machinery acquisition, the Minister noted. During the fiscal, the company reported a production of 47,494 metric tonnes, against its existing production capacity of 26,000 metric tonnes.

According to Mr. Patil, out of the ₹507 crore profit, KSDL will pay ₹157 crore as dividend to the government, marking an incremental increase of ₹22 crore in dividend as compared to the ₹135 crore it paid a year ago. Further on the PSU’s performance, the Minister said KSDL recorded ₹420 crore through modern trade channels and ₹120 crore through e-commerce.

Factory in Vijayapura

To expand KSDL’s growth, the government would be setting up a new manufacturing unit on 50 acres in Vijayapura, for which ₹229 crore has been already allocated, said the Minister.

Congress leader booked under POCSO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahalakshmi Layout police have registered a case against a Congress leader from the Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly constituency for allegedly assaulting minor children.

The accused has been identified as Anand Naidu, general secretary of the Bengaluru North District Congress Committee (DCC). Based on a complaint filed by a man at Annapoorneshwari Nagar Police Station, Naidu has been booked under relevant sections, including provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the complaint, Naidu was allegedly in an illicit relationship with the complainant’s wife for the past three years.

Internal quota: Govt. notifies new ratio

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the State government has notified the new ratio slicing up 15% reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in the State, doubts have been expressed over how the roster points system and introduction of “Scheduled Castes General” would practically work out.

The government on Monday notified the decisions of the special Cabinet meeting held on Friday providing 5.25% each to Dalit Left (Madiga and allied castes) and Dalit Right (Holeya and allied castes), and 4.5% to “touchable” castes of Lambanis, Bhovis, Koramas, and Korachas along with 49 nomadic castes and 10 micro communities.

Along with this, it notified the roster points for 400 (currently it is 100),

> The roster points fixed in 1995 and 2022 were not scientific. The future roster should not be based on that
>
> **D. CHANDRASHEKARAIAH,** President of Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Government Employees Association

and clarified that the posts will go into “SC General” pool if the notification does not ensure three roster points to Scheduled Castes. The notifications issued earlier will be withdrawn and a fresh notification as per the new formula will be issued.

“A recruitment notification should have posts not less than 15 in the same cadre and in same department to ensure implementation of internal reservation since the third roster point is at 15. This would ensure at least one post

> A recruitment notification should have posts not less than 15 in the same cadre and in same department to ensure implementation of internal reservation since the third roster point is at 15.
>
> **A SENIOR DALIT OFFICER**

for each of the three categories in internal reservation. If the number is less than 15, where three roster points cannot be fixed, it will fall into SC General pool which will be available for all among SCs,” said a senior Dalit officer.

According to him, mass recruitments such as in Home, Health, and Education departments could help in implementation of internal reservation, but in a number of departments recruitment size is normally small and based on need. “In such scenarios where number of posts to be filled is less than 15, internal reservation will not work.”

Meanwhile, president of Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Government Employees Association D. Chandrashekaraiah said that the roster has to be fixed scientifically. “The roster points fixed in 1995 and 2022 were not scientific. The future roster should not be based on that.”

For decimal

He explained that the roster points have been fixed at 400 to accommodate decimal of .25% given to both Dalit Left and Dalit Right each, and .50% given to touchable communities. Till now, roster points were fixed for 100 for recruitment. “However, the reservation in decimal could take decades to realise.”

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 28.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites the tender from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Other details may be seen in the bid document.

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender Rs.in lakhs (Excluding GST)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Contract
1	Mitigation of Fly infestation, protection of public health and development of basic Infrastructure in nearby villages around 5 processing plants in Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency.	5604.00	5610000/-	11 Months

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **07.05.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal. 2.** Pre bid meeting: **08.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the **office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech),** BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: **19.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Technical bids on: **20.05.2026 at 10.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids will be notified to technically qualified bidders.

DIPR/CP/AAA/402/2026-27

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) on e-procurement

The **APTRANSCO** invites online bids for **RFP NO.APTRANSCO/STAMC/2026-27** for "Providing Consulting Services to set-up State Transmission Asset Management Centre (STAMC) & ISO 55001 Asset Management Practices". The tender document can be downloaded from website **http//tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from 11:00 hrs on Dt: 29.04.2026. Contact No's: 0866-2429230, Extn: 2024, 3434.**

R.O. No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/24/26-27 **Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission**

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, Sahastradhara Road (IT Park), Dehradun
Phone No. 0135- 2607292, 2708100, Web site: www.siidcul.com

NIT No:- 216/SIIDCUL/2026

E-Tender Notice

SIIDCUL invites online bids from interested bidders for allotment of 200 Acres (approximately 809400.00sq.m.) of land for Industrial and Institutional purpose at Prag Farm, District Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL **www.siidcul.com** or **www.uktenders.gov.in** from 29.04.2026 to 29.05.2026. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website **www.uktenders.gov.in** on/or before mentioned due date i.e 29.05.2026 and time 14:00 hrs.

Managing Director

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INBRIEF

Telangana plans annual carnival in Hyderabad

A proposal to organise an annual carnival in Hyderabad during November and December is set to anchor Telangana's push to position itself as a leading tourism destination, with Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao directing officials to build a time-bound action plan around infrastructure, branding and promotion. Chairing a meeting of the Tourism Advisory Committee on Tuesday, Mr. Rao said it should be designed to attract both domestic and international tourists, and evolve into a self-sustaining model backed by sponsorships.

From Page One

Minimum temperature up by two to three degrees Celsius in city

S. Swati, senior associate - Practice Indian Institute for Human Settlements, speaking during a session titled, 'Extreme Heat Phenomenon in Bengaluru and its Studied Causes', said that Bengaluru is projected to become less dry and wetter in the next decade.

"The average annual rainfall would increase by 25% under moderate scenarios compared to the present and by 10% under severe scenarios," she said.

Nithya J., executive engineer at the Climate Action Cell, FECCM, Greater Bengaluru Authority, speaking during a session titled 'Solutions - How Will Bengaluru Handle Rising Temperatures?' said that pilot studies for local climate action were conducted in five wards – Jakkur, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, Shantinagar, Begur, and Vijanapura – as part of the World Climate Action Plan.

She said that in Vijanapura, the land surface temperature map showed that some parts of the ward were experiencing higher surface temperatures, especially in densely built-up and areas with less visible cover.

Google's AI data hub project kicks off in Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation for the 1-Gigawatt centre in Tarluvada, one of India's largest FDI projects with data storage, AI cloud, and an investment of ₹1.35 lakh crore

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the Google Data Centre at Tarluvada, on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, one of the largest single Foreign Direct Investment projects in India.

The 1-Gigawatt hyperscale AI data centre is coming up on 601.4 acres at an investment of ₹1.35 lakh crore. It will be managed by Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech in partnership with Adani Infra. AdaniConneX and Airtel Nxtra are also partners in the wider Google-Adani-Airtel venture, which forms part of Google's announced $15 billion investment. The facility would offer large-scale data storage along with AI cloud infrastructure and an upcoming subsea cable system would give Visakhapatnam direct digital links with several countries. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the port city was set to become the country's next technology landmark. "Visakhapatnam will become AI-patnam," he said.

The project will be managed by Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech in partnership with Adani Infra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Adani Digital Labs Director Jeet Adani said India currently had about 1.3 Gigawatts of total data centre capacity, and that the Visakhapatnam project alone would add nearly 1 Gigawatt at a single location. he said.

Laura Williams, Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad, said the Google project embodies the strength of the U.S.-India partnership. She emphasised that the project aligns with strategic initiatives to build secure, trusted technological systems and create new opportunities.

Aero India venue is forest land: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday said that the Yelahanka Air Force Station, the venue for the biennial Aero India, is classified as forest land.

Delivering the keynote address at a media workshop titled 'Extreme Heat and its Impact on Bengaluru', he said, "The Air Force base in Gantiganahalli, where the international air show is held every two years, is classified as forest land. About 159 acres in Gantiganahalli village is a reserved forest area. If the Indian Air Force (IAF) submits a proposal for diversion and provides alternative land we will consider it."

The Minister added that if alternative land is not provided to the Forest Department, steps will be taken to reclaim the land.

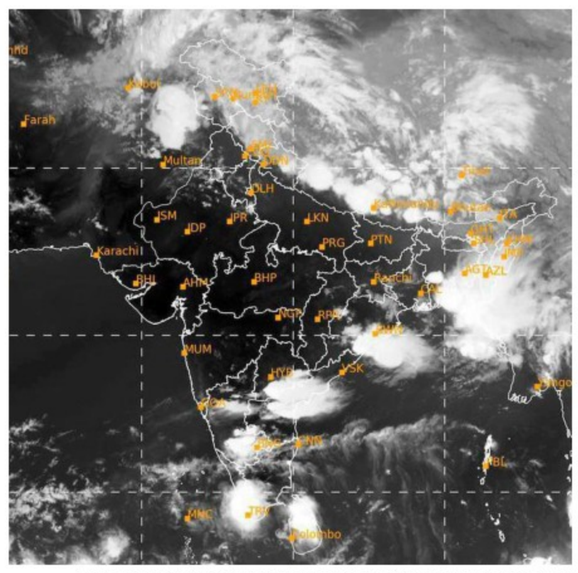
"A runway has been constructed on this land and is used by the IAF. However, land records remain in the name of the Forest Department, and the land has not been officially converted. Hence, action will be taken to reclaim it as forest land," he said.

"About 444 acres of land had been allotted to the IAF in the Jarakabande area. Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land cannot be allotted to anyone. Accordingly, the then Deputy Commissioner cancelled this allotment in 2017. Steps are being taken to reclaim this forest land and preserve it as a green space," he said.

He added that encroachments of about 250 acres of forest land worth nearly ₹10,000 crore in Kothanur, Kadugodi, B.M. Kaval, and Turahalli have been cleared where tree saplings have been planted. He said that the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC) has been formulated to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change. "The Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) has taken steps to implement this action plan in coordination with various State government departments. Training programmes are being organised for implementing the KSAPCC," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4	25.8	23.0	Kozhikode	—	37.9	29.0
Ahmedabad	—	43.2	25.7	Kurnool	—	41.4	30.8
Aizawl	26	25.3	16.8	Lucknow	—	39.7	26.4
Allahabad	—	41.0	28.0	Madurai	—	39.0	27.5
Bengaluru	—	35.4	25.0	Mangaluru	0.6	34.0	26.0
Bhopal	—	43.6	26.8	Mumbai	—	33.6	25.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.5	27.1	Mysuru	—	36.2	22.8
Chandigarh	—	33.8	24.8	New Delhi	—	39.2	29.4
Chennai	—	39.1	28.2	Patna	—	35.0	23.7
Coimbatore	—	37.7	25.8	Port Blair	—	33.8	26.6
Dehradun	—	34.7	21.8	Puducherry	—	35.6	27.9
Gangtok	1	22.8	14.6	Pune	—	42.3	26.4
Goa	—	35.0	28.3	Raipur	—	42.8	28.7
Guwahati	10	29.1	21.4	Ranchi	0.4	38.2	25.8
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	17	20.0	14.2
Hyderabad	—	42.0	27.7	Shimla	—	26.0	14.0
Imphal	—	22.4	18.8	Srinagar	—	21.2	12.6
Jaipur	—	40.9	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.8	26.4
Kochi	—	32.8	27.2	Tiruchi	—	40.5	27.6
Kohima	—	21.0	15.0	Vijayawada	—	38.0	27.9
Kolkata	—	34.2	28.7	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	28.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.74	.85	.28	166	121	
Bengaluru	9	11	.40	172	177	
Chennai	.15	.18	.43	20	37	
Delhi	.24	129	.44	140	313	
Hyderabad	.15	.14	.37	81	98	
Kolkata	.10	.35	.38	57	59	
Lucknow	.11	.30	.21	232	156	
Mumbai	3	.12	.49	44	108	
Pune	—	.22	115	42	76	
Visakhapatnam	.23	.42	.24	41	113	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kaithal, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 370 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
Administrative Medical Officer Office, General Hospital Belur, Belur(T), Hassan(D)– 573115.
Phone No:08177-222246 E-mail ID: ghbelur@gmail.com
Ref No:T.G.H.B/TENDER/02/03/10/2025-26
Date:27.04.2026

Tender Notification

Tenders were Invited for the year 2026-27 through E-Procurement/ KPP portal as per KTPP 1999 and 2000 Act in two-cover system for Supply to Taluk General Hospital, Belur, Hassan Dist (100 Beded Hospital). Tender can be submitted by Authorized Sellers/Manufactures through E-procurement (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as details below. For more details pls contact AMO, General Hospiral, Belur If There Any changes in Tender Will update in KPP Portal Only. Sl No. E-Tender Indent No 1)DHFWS/202627/IND2433 Tender Details Drugs And Consumables Tender Approx Value (In Lakhs)60.00 E.MD Amount (In Rupees)1,50,000 Last Date For Tender Submission 22.05.2026 4.30 Pm 2)DHFWS/202627/IND2426 Tender Details Lab Reagents And Consumables Tender Approx Value (In Lakhs)25.00 E.MD Amount (In Rupees)62,500 Last Date For Tender Submission 22.05.2026 4.30 Pm 3)DHFWS/202627/IND2427 Tender Details Cleaning Materials And HNS Items Tender Approx Value (In Lakhs)10.00 E.MD Amount (In Rupees)25,000 Last Date For Tender Submission 15.05.2026 4.30 Pm

Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital, Belur, Hassan Dist
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/75/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 570005,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಅಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/1/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.04.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 6.50 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 500.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಒಟ್ಟು 30 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 20 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 30.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 19.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 21 ರಿಂದ 30 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 30.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 20.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 02.06.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 03.06.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821–2420624 (9740029156) ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mudamysore.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಬದಲಾಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತೆ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ದಕ್ಷಿಣ), ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/107/KSMCA/96/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/5054-4059CMIDP-SCP-TSP/2026-27/423 Dated : 27-04-2026

E-Tender Notification

On 27-04-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 30224/Call-2, 35723, 34924, 34925, 34926, 34931, 35135, 31307/Call-2, 34929, 34930, 34934, 34928, 35236, 35238 & 35237 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **07-05-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and Work Indent No. 35395 & 35350 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **13-05-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- (N.N.Patil)
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/69/2026-27

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Platform)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender through kpp Portal against Enquiry No: BESCOM/202627/SE0456 dated 27.04.2026 **for Selection of Agency for Implementation of Centralized Ticketing Tool under RAPDRP/IPDS Framework.**

Bid Documents available from: **04.05.2026, 5:30 p.m. (Onwards).** Last date for submission of Bids: **03.06.2026, 4:00 p.m.** Opening of Bid Document: **04.06.2026, 4:00 p.m.**

The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers **080-46010000, 080-68948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-, General Manager (ICT & MIS), Bangalore-01.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-3:Tender-05:2026-27 Dated:- 28.04.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work :- Two cover System :- Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements :- (1) Improvements to Road from NH-13 Chitrahalli Circle to Kolalu in selected Reaches in Holalkere Taluk(SH243) (W.I.NO.27836)/call-2

Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs :-200.00

Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 04-05-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 05-05-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 06-05-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 08-05-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/70/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga
No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Date: 24.04.2026

Short-Term e-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Formation of Monsoon Plantation and carrying out Advance Works" in forest areas coming in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division including Change of places of work implementation mentioned in e-procurement portal under various Head of Account based on expected Grant for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tenders is fixed as: 09.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/132/04/142

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bangalore-560040
No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/03/2026-27 Date: 28.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	General Category
1.	Establishment of Temporary control room for monsoon period in Govindarajanagara Sub Division. **Amount put to tender :Rs. 14.21 Lakhs, EMD :Rs.36,000/-**
2.	Establishment of Temporary control room for monsoon period in Chandralayout Sub Division. **Amount put to tender :Rs. 11.09 Lakhs, EMD :Rs.28,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP from **29.04.2026 at 15.00 hours** onwards. **(2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **08.05.2026 up to 16:00 hours (3)** Date of Opening of Tender Proposals is **11.05.2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, Zone-2, BWCC

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprise)
EE,VJNL, UBP, Division No.01, Kadur
e.mail I.D: eeubpdvn1@gmail.com Ph: 08267-295207
No:EE/VJNL/UBPD-1/K/T-01/4701/2026-27/ D: 28.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.1, Kadur Chikamagalur District, Karnataka invites tender through KPP portal on "Percentage Basis" for the works of Indent No: VJNL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT467/CALL-2 & VJNL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 472/CALL-2. The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through KPP portal website ("https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in") from 29.04. 2026 to 08.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Details such as Amount put to tender/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through KPP portal or from the office of the under signed during the office hours upto 05.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours. The tender will be opened on 11.05.2026 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.01, Kadur through KPP portal. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-Executive Engineer VJNL, UBP Division No.01, Kadur
DIPR/ckm/ksmca/26-27/19/145

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಂಡಿಮೋಟ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101
ಇಮೇಲ್–apmcballari@gmail.com, ದೂ:08392–250442 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:08392–250890
ಸಂ: ಕೃಮಾಇ/ ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಬ/ ಅಭಿಕೆ/39/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15/04/2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಗ–1, ವರ್ಗ–2(ಎ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಶ್ಯಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಾಮಗಳು 1999–2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಧರವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ಯು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 922
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 925
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 929
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 932
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 941
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 937
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 938
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 939
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 940
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 944
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ/2025–26/OW/ವರ್ಕ್_ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ 945

01)ಬಿಡ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07–05–2026 @12:00**
02)ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11–05–2026 @16:00**
03)ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13–05–2026 @11:00**
04)ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ(ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು): **15–05–2026 @11:00**

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ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ. **ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.**
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A BG-BGE

A false high

The SIR's impact must be factored in before reading turnout figures

There is a tendency in India to reduce democracy to the mere conduct of elections, and to confine political life to "political society" – that subset of the population actively engaged in setting policy and in mediating welfare delivery. This points to a democracy that falls short of a deliberative or deeply participative model, even in socio-economically better-off States such as Tamil Nadu (T.N.) and Kerala. Yet, elections are not a one-off event, and turnout remains a useful dipstick for the vibrancy of the democratic exercise, particularly in India where the poorer sections vote in large numbers. By that measure, the headline figures from T.N. and the first phase of the poll in West Bengal appear daunting and unprecedented. According to provisional Election Commission of India (ECI) data, 93.2% of voters turned out in the first phase in West Bengal and 85.1% in T.N. These record numbers must be read against the backdrop of the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which led to massive net voter deletions. In T.N., the rolls shrank by 10.5% from the pre-SIR figure, while in West Bengal nearly 13% of the electorate was deleted, with the eligibility of lakhs of voters still being heard by tribunals. If this is factored in, the percentage turnout begins to look inflated by a reduced denominator (total electorate) rather than by genuinely expanded participation (the numerator). The absolute increase in turnout in T.N. – about 27 lakh votes on provisional figures – was in fact among the lowest in recent electoral cycles, suggesting that wrongful deletions may have suppressed real participation even if the SIR did clear the electoral rolls of those who had died or moved out. The effect was sharpest in cities such as Chennai, where several constituencies recorded turnout above 80%, a jump of over 20 percentage points, even though the absolute number of voters – around 24 lakh – remained virtually unchanged from the 2021 elections.

It is also difficult to read too much into turnout in either State. High turnout has long been a feature of politically charged West Bengal, and T.N. has also been no slouch in recent electoral cycles compared to the rest of India. Also, political scientists have found little correlation between turnout levels and pro- or anti-incumbency outcomes. Once published, turnout percentages tend to acquire a life of their own and are cited as proof of democratic enthusiasm or the strength of a mandate, or, in T.N.'s case, the impact of a new political player such as actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. But a percentage is only as meaningful as the denominator it rests on, and in these two States, the denominator itself has been substantially altered. Turnout figures must therefore be read alongside how the electorate was determined before any conclusions about the mandate are drawn from the actual results.

Battle of wills

The U.S. should lift its blockade so that Iran can open the Strait of Hormuz

The U.S. war on Iran has turned into a battle of wills in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, marked by duelling naval blockades and stalled diplomacy. Iran, which has effectively restricted the free flow of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz since the U.S. and Israel attacks on February 28, has refused to ease its control over the critical waterway. The U.S. insists that its blockade of Iranian ports will stay in place until a deal is reached. Last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi travelled to Pakistan, which mediated the first round of direct talks on April 11, but Iran declined further direct talks with Washington. The White House had earlier said it would send special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad, but President Donald Trump cancelled their trip after Mr. Araghchi left the Pakistani capital. Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that Iran wants a deal. Yet, Tehran continues to refuse talks with the U.S., citing Israel's attacks on Lebanon and America's blockade in the Gulf of Oman. On paper, a ceasefire is in place in Lebanon, and Mr. Trump said earlier this month that Israel was "prohibited" from attacking the country, but Israeli air strikes have continued. He has also indicated no urgency to lift the blockade, betting that sustained economic pressure will force Iran to change its position.

The only silver lining is that the Iran ceasefire, announced on April 8, is still holding. Despite Mr. Trump's threats, he has held fire even after Iran seized ships in the Persian Gulf. Tehran, too, despite warning retaliation over a U.S. seizure of an Iranian tanker, has not followed through. Both sides have remained diplomatically engaged through Pakistan. The alternative to diplomacy is disaster. The U.S. and Israel bombed Iran for 40 days but failed to secure a favourable strategic outcome, and the global economic fallout of this illegal war is now being felt. For diplomacy to succeed, Mr. Trump and the Iranian leadership should adopt a phased approach. Rather than acting as if the war has not changed the region's strategic realities, the U.S. should offer tangible concessions to Iran in return for compromises on core issues. Iran has demonstrated a measure of deterrence by asserting control over the Strait of Hormuz. But if it continues to disrupt commercial traffic, further damaging the global economy, it risks squandering the goodwill it enjoys as the underdog. A practical first step would be reciprocal de-escalation: the U.S. lifting its blockade and Iran reopening the Strait to commercial shipping. This would also reinforce the fragile ceasefire and build confidence, paving the way for the next round of direct talks on outstanding issues, including the nuclear programme.

A recusal test the Delhi High Court failed

Kaleeswaram Raj

Lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court refused to recuse herself from hearing the Delhi liquor policy case – *Central Bureau Of Investigation vs Kuldeep Singh and Ors.* (April 20, 2026) – involving the former Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, and others. This episode marks an unfortunate deviation from India's jurisprudence on judicial recusal.

Mr. Kejriwal argued the recusal plea by appearing as party in person in the High Court. He submitted that the judge should not hear the Central Bureau of Investigation's plea against the discharge of the accused, including himself, in the excise policy case, as ordered by the trial court. The prominent grounds cited in his plea included adverse findings by the judge in earlier proceedings in the same case; the judge's alleged ideological proclivity, as reflected in her attendance at events organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad, or ABAP (a lawyers' organisation inclined towards the political philosophy of the ruling regime at the Centre); the fact that the judge's children were working as panel advocates under the Centre/government, with case files to be allotted by the Solicitor General, who, incidentally, was representing the opposing side in the case; and a statement by Home Minister Amit Shah implying that Mr. Kejriwal would lose the case in the High Court. Because of these factors, he contended that he reasonably apprehended bias in the process of adjudication.

Law on recusal

The law on recusal of a judge is not codified in India. It is more an ethical issue than a technical one. Yet, the jurisprudence on recusal is rich as it takes in precedents and best practices across the globe. The 19th century idea about judges with its Victorian overtones is reflected in the British case of *Leeson vs General Council of Medical Education and Registration* (1889) where Lord Bowen said that like Caesar's wife, judges should be above suspicion. The proverbial idea that justice should not only be done but also be seen to have been done was articulated by *Lord Hewart in R vs Sussex Justices* (1923).

What transpired in the Delhi High Court exposes the risk of judges not strictly adhering to the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, the draft of which was finalised at the Round Table Meeting of judges from many countries at The Hague in 2002. They enumerate independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, competence and diligence as accepted 'judicial values'. Among other things, they say that " a judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities" .

Judicial recusal principles have been tested in the Delhi liquor policy case

In *Ranjit Thakur vs Union Of India And Ors.* (1987), the Supreme Court of India explained that the 'proper approach' for a judge when faced with a request for recusal "is not to look at his own mind and ask himself, however, honestly, 'Am I biased?', but to look at the mind of the party before him". In *P.K. Ghosh, I.A.S. and Ant. vs J.G. Rajput* (1995) the Court said that when the litigant feels on reasonable basis that a particular judge should not hear his case, and when there are alternatives, recusal by the judge is the appropriate course, for maintaining public confidence in the system. In *State Of Punjab vs Davinder Pal Singh Bhullar and Ors. Etc.* (2011), the Court said that "a mere ground of appearance of bias and not actual bias is enough to vitiate the judgment/order".

In *Supreme Court Advocates-On-Record Association vs Union Of India* (2015), the Court reiterated some of the judicial values. The judgment said, "The simple question is, whether the adjudication by the Judge concerned, would cause a reasonable doubt in the mind of a reasonably informed litigant and fair-minded public as to his impartiality." Unlike administrative decision making, where the adjudicative authority is often stipulated in the statute or the rule, there is no doctrine of necessity in judicial proceedings when there are alternatives.

The judgment of the top court in *State of W.B. vs Shivananda Pathak* (1998) was an admonition against judicial obstinacy. Thus, with the possible exceptions such as Justice Arun Mishra's refusal to recuse in *Indore Development Authority vs Manoharlal And Ors.* (2019), the Supreme Court has, by and large, rejected the "duty to sit doctrine" evolved in the United States.

The challenge before the judge

Legal scholar James Sample opined that "the teachable moments on disqualification are in the Court's Court". This, again, is a call not only for ensuring fairness but also for maintaining the appearance of fairness. The real challenge before the judge is to overcome the possibility for subjectivity in adjudicative process especially when the very same judge whose recusal is sought is deciding the question of recusal.

Distinguished American jurist Benjamin N. Cardozo famously wrote, "We may try to see things as objectively as we please. None the less, we can never see them with any eyes except our own.". The maxim that no one should sit in judgment in her own cause is too well settled.

Viewed in the light of these principles, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma should have recused herself or at least insisted that the recusal plea should be placed before another judge for hearing. Such a course would have facilitated a more objective evaluation of the contentions raised by Mr. Kejriwal apart from averting the present scenario. But neither of these happened and the present judgment followed.

Fairness of process

The judgment issued on April 20, 2026 does not reflect the correct judicial approach. The judge said that she had to decide between a litigant and herself. It was further stated in the judgment that the suspicion of bias expressed in the recusal plea was unfounded and that the allegations were manufactured. The judge asked, "... if the children of politicians can enter politics, how would it be just to question the children of a Judge who study like others, struggle like others, and prove themselves in Court like others to earn their livelihood?" One would wonder if this was the argument made by Mr. Kejriwal.

Mr. Kejriwal, in his rejoinder, had reportedly said that "conflict arises not from prior participation in the present proceedings, but from the admitted existence of a live, active and ongoing professional relationship with the prosecuting side". The judge also justified her attendance at an event organised by the ABAP, and stated that she had attended events conducted by academic bodies as well. The judgment mistakes criticism of the judge as one of judicial establishment. The verdict is also self defensive, argumentative and accusational rather than analytical. It is vulnerable to further legal challenge. After the judgment, Mr. Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia wrote letters to the judge stating that they would not participate in further proceedings before her in the present matter.

In a case with serious political ramifications, the grounds raised by Mr. Kejriwal and others were relevant and required a more objective assessment, rather than a subjective affirmation based on a notion of a "presumption of impartiality", as stated in the judgment. The verdict substitutes the well-settled legal position that a reasonable apprehension of bias is sufficient for a plea of recusal with a requirement to demonstrate actual bias. This is patently erroneous.

The judge rightly said that, in the recusal plea, she was effectively being tried by the litigant. But the outcome of this "trial", unless corrected, will remain an embarrassing precedent for a system already in crisis.

The RTE Act and the idea of social inclusion

Ayushi Khare

Senior Lead, Government Relations, Indus Action

Karthika Annamalai

Consultant, Right to Education (RTE), Indus Action

In its January 2026 judgment, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed the purpose of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the landmark provision that reserves 25% of seats in private schools for students from economically weaker sections and socially disadvantaged groups. In words that are deeply symbolic, the Court observed that this provision makes it possible for "the child of a multi-millionaire or even of a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to sit in the same classroom and at the same bench as the child of an autorickshaw driver or a street vendor". The judgment reasserted that this provision is a deliberate constitutional strategy to operationalise equality of status by creating shared learning spaces for all children.

This sentiment of social integration often comes alive in thousands of stories across the country. Take Karthik, a footwear vendor, and his wife, Sunita, for example. They always dreamed of providing their children with quality education despite their modest income. This became possible when their younger son joined a reputed private school through this provision. The boy thrived in the new environment, excelling in academics and his favourite sport, kabaddi. Teachers nurtured his growth, while classmates became close friends. For Karthik and Sunita, the RTE Act did not just change their son's future; it altered their family's life trajectory, with the potential to lift them out of poverty. Stories such as Prem's are often told as narratives of access – of doors opened and opportunities unlocked. But at stake is not simply where a child studies, but whether the circumstances of their birth continue to determine the boundaries of their social world.

A constitutional strategy

Despite its intent, Section 12(1)(c) is frequently mischaracterised as a tool to promote private schooling or to allow the state to outsource its constitutional duty to public education, citing falling government school enrolment alongside rising private school admissions.

The Supreme Court of India's judgment strengthens the vision of a socially integrated education system

This reading is misplaced. First, Section 12(1)(c) does not dilute the state's duty to invest in public schools, but recognises that the right to free and compulsory elementary education, and the creation of shared learning spaces, must be realised within a schooling ecosystem where private schools are not incidental actors but natural participants in fulfilling a constitutional mandate. The RTE Act does not create a zero-sum contest between public and private institutions; it seeks to foster integrated educational spaces.

Second, the shift towards private schooling predates the RTE Act. The Annual Status of Education (ASER) Report of 2006 documents significant movement into private schools "at the expense of government school enrolment". Declining admissions in government schools are rooted in deeper concerns around infrastructure, teacher presence, and perceived quality – not in Section 12(1)(c) itself.

Evidence from the ground

Since its rollout, over five million children have walked through the doors of educational spaces previously out of reach, with retention rates averaging over 90%. In cities such as Delhi and Ahmedabad, blended classrooms are no longer exceptions; they are the norm. Research (such as that by Rao, Gautam, 2019) indicates that mixed classrooms lead to increased generosity, reduced discrimination, and stronger pro-social behaviour, without any adverse impact on academic outcomes or classroom discipline. At scale, implementation has also stabilised: reimbursements under Section 12(1)(c) are centrally streamlined, and State-level online Management Information Systems (MIS) ensure transparent, low-discretion processing.

For children from disadvantaged backgrounds, these classrooms offer more than just academics. They provide access to social capital, previously unexplored aspirations, peer networks, and institutional cultures. These experiences translate into higher self-belief, enhanced ambition, and a broader worldview.

Acknowledging challenges

There is no denying the challenges that persist in the implementation of Section 12(1)(c). Some private schools continue to resist full inclusion, while families often bear hidden costs for uniforms, books and materials. Implementation remains uneven across States, with persistent gaps in transparency, grievance redress, and last-mile outreach and disbursements.

These challenges do not change the fact that Section 12(1)(c) was not meant to rely solely on moral persuasion – it requires clear, enforceable rules to succeed. Encouragingly, recent experience demonstrates that these gaps are neither inevitable nor insurmountable. State-driven digital admission systems and improved monitoring mechanisms – particularly in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi – have significantly strengthened access and accountability.

The Court's reaffirmation of Section 12(1)(c) makes clear that it is neither a retreat from public education nor an endorsement of private schooling. The challenge now is administrative. States must ensure timely reimbursements, remove hidden costs by private schools, strengthen grievance redress, and enforce inclusion norms so that equality is experienced. The real test is whether we can operationalise the constitutional promise of social integration with the seriousness needed to match the ambition we hold for our children.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The New Zealand FTA

India's strategy of "friendship diversification" is necessary for safeguarding against global supply chain volatility, especially after experiencing U.S. President Donald Trump's overwhelming friendship, which brought our labour-intensive industries to their knees. The New Zealand FTA serves as a masterclass in "defensive liberalisation". While New Zealand is a powerhouse in dairy and horticulture, India has successfully ring-fenced its sensitive dairy sector, which is non-negotiable for rural livelihood security. The FTA should be viewed not as a primary market for volume, but as a chance to engage with a quality and technology partner.

A. Thirugnanasambantham,
Coimbatore

The serpent's bite

The issue of tackling snakebites in India highlights a crisis sustained as much by superstition as by systemic gaps. Harmful practices persist, such as making the snake bite again in the hope that it will take the venom back, or delaying treatment while seeking faith healers. Sleeping on the ground further increases exposure in rural areas. Therefore, public health strategy must prioritise behavioural change alongside antivenom supply. Targeted awareness campaigns, school-level education, and community health worker training can replace myths with first-aid protocols grounded in science.

Harsh Pawaria,
Rohtak, Haryana

Equally, preventive innovation matters. The *Kisan Mitra Chhadi* — a sensor-based stick that warns farmers of nearby snakes — is a practical, low-cost complement to clinical solutions. Prevention and cure must advance together.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

In India, where snakebites remain a serious public health concern, administering anti-snake venom and managing its reactions cannot be left to a few specialists. Most patients first reach primary and taluk hospitals, where delays can be fatal. While infrastructure gaps may take time to address, training can be implemented immediately. Structured training in snakebite first aid, anti-snake venom administration, and anaphylaxis management must be made mandatory for all doctors.

Anahatha D. Kalyani,
Pallippuram, Palakkad, Kerala

Officials of the Kerala Forest Department have showcased "SARPA" (the Snake Awareness, Rescue, and Protection app) as a tool that can help save the lives of snakebite victims and connect users with snake rescuers. However, the app is currently available only on the Android platform and can be downloaded only from the Google Play Store. I request the Forest Department to make the app available on the App Store as well, so that iPhone users can also benefit from it.

Surendran K.T.,
Kaloor, Ernakulam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The fight to eliminate cervical cancer

Neerja Bhatla

Professor Emeritus, National Cancer Institute Jhajjar, Former Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi

In 2008, Professor Harald zur Hausen received the Nobel Prize for his discovery that persistent infection with high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the cause of cervical cancer, an important cause of morbidity and mortality globally, but more so in low and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). His discovery paved the way for the development of prophylactic vaccines as well as tests to detect the infectious agent. A decade later, in 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced an initiative for the elimination of cervical cancer, and the global strategy was formally launched on November 17, 2020, endorsed by 194 countries, India among them.

Disease and prevention

Cervical cancer is a source of extreme physical misery, emotional strife and financial hardship. It is the second most common cancer among women in India, with approximately one lakh new cases every year, and half as many deaths, which is one quarter of the global burden. The years of life lost to cervical cancer are more than that of other cancers as these women are relatively younger, with active family and social responsibilities. Women diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer could develop urinary fistulas, postmenopausal bleeding, extreme sciatic and lumbar pain, obstruction to their ureters and renal failure. If one is lucky enough to get diagnosed at an earlier stage, the cancer is curable, but only with radical surgery or chemo and radiation therapy. There is also a risk of recurrence which will require even more difficult exenteration procedures, stomas etc. That is, while the cancer is curable by providing symptom relief, hormone replacement and other supportive care, it comes at a physical and financial cost.

However, such suffering was preventable. Since the 1940s, secondary prevention by regular pap smear screening had been set up in the West, enabling detection of not just cancer but also precancerous stages. The natural history of cervical cancer has been well documented for over a century. It has a long precancerous phase of 10-15 years termed Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN) which can be detected by the microscopic examination of cells collected on a slide by brushing the cervix. At this stage, the cancer can be easily treated by simple day care procedures that do not require the removal of the uterus.

However, in India and other LMICs, we lacked the infrastructure and manpower to implement a screening of all women over the age of 30 years even once, let alone the recommended three-year interval period. Even in good tertiary centres, the laboratory placed a limit on the number of women that could be screened in a day. Outreach camps were conducted at regular intervals by gynaecologists and pathologists around the country, but these were merely a drop in the ocean. Even today, despite a national programme for screening with visual inspection, the screening coverage does not exceed 5%. Moreover, bringing women who test positive into the hospital for a confirmatory biopsy and treatment has extremely poor compliance rates.

The promise of a vaccine

HPV vaccination entered this scenario in 2006 like a superhero for the primary prevention of cervical cancer. Starting off as a three-dose vaccination, research showed that it could be reduced to two, and then it was found that just one dose was sufficient to provide protection against 85-90% of cancers. Over 500 million doses have been delivered worldwide, and nearly four million in India.

Cumulative data from systematic trials and post-marketing surveillance show no increase in adverse events among vaccinated women than in the general population

Cumulative data from systematic trials and post-marketing surveillance show no increase in adverse events among vaccinated women than in the general population. Transient mild reactions have been observed that are common to all vaccines. There have been no negative effects on reproductive performance, fertility rates, congenital malformations or menstrual patterns. The efficacy of the HPV vaccine is remarkable, with nearly complete protection against the strains which are present in the vaccine. The first generation of vaccines were directed against the two most virulent strains, HPV 16 and 18, that account for 70% of cervical cancers globally but 85% in India. Countries like Australia and the U.K. which introduced the HPV vaccine soon after its launch in 2007-8 have already witnessed significant reductions in pre-cancer and cancer. Similar reports have come from other countries like Sweden, Denmark, Canada and the U.S.

Widespread accessibility

The WHO's cervical cancer elimination initiative envisions making cervical cancer a rare cancer, with an incidence rate of four per 1,00,000. To reach this goal, we must achieve certain targets by 2030: HPV vaccination of 90% of girls before the age of 15 years, screening of 70% of women with an HPV test at 35 and 45 years, and treatment of 90% of those detected with lesions. While the country has already crossed the halfway point since the launch of the global declaration, we are still far away from reaching these targets. However, the launch of the National HPV Vaccination Campaign on February 28, 2026 by the Prime Minister himself signals the highest political commitment to women's health and reproductive rights. All parents need to be aware of this opportunity so that their 14-year-old daughters can avail free vaccination at the nearest government health facilities. One small jab will take us towards a cervical cancer-free future and a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

A question of choice

A retracted ban on government staff joining parties has led to intense debate

STATE OF PLAY

Shubhomoy Sikdar
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An order by Chhattisgarh's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government that at first glance seemed innocuous – and its hasty withdrawal – has triggered a debate on the political leanings of serving government employees.

On April 21, a circular issued by the General Administration Department – which comes under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai – stated that no government employee could become a member of any political party or organisation; participate in any of its activities; or hold office within it. Referring to the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, it said that it was mandatory for all government servants to discharge the duties of their office with complete "impartiality, honesty, and integrity". It also said that no government employee was to assume any position or responsibility that might affect his or her official duties. Further, the circular warned of action in accordance with the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965, and the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1966 for violation of those rules.

However, the very next day another circular was issued which stated that the earlier instructions were suspended till further orders.

On attending RSS events

The suspension of the notice evoked a debate centred on the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). State Congress President Deepak Baij linked

both the circulars to the organisation. He said that with respect to the first order, it seemed to indicate that a section of the BJP government was targeting the RSS, angered by its interference in the government. The subsequent suspension, he claimed, was issued after the RSS expressed its displeasure. The BJP government used to pressure and lure employees to attend RSS events, but the April 21 order would have automatically put a stop to this, he said.

Invoking history, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president reminded that the RSS had been banned in the past and that many State governments had considered the RSS as "dangerous for the country". He argued that government employees should never be given an exemption to join the RSS.

While there was no explicit mention of the RSS in the government's circular, the matter is understood to have ruffled a few feathers within the BJP too with its rank and file questioning the timing and logic of the move.

Questions to the centre

Within the ruling party and the RSS, there was criticism of the move as it could directly affect government employees attending the events of the organisation, and because it could invite more public scrutiny especially via social media. The silence of top Ministers of the State on the issue has bolstered the belief that the withdrawal was due to pressure.

It is also understood that State BJP leaders have raised the matter with the party's central leadership. There are voices in the party that are asking if such a circular is in contravention of a 2024 order through which the Centre lifted a ban on government employees taking part in RSS activities.

Another view within the ruling establishment is that it was not a very well-thought out order. One of the top leader's interpretation was that it was issued to dissuade government employees from joining other political groups opposed to the ruling BJP or to check proselytisation which had been a raging issue. However, the decision was taken without calculating the impact it would have on the party and the RSS itself.

Against unionisation

In the context of Chhattisgarh, it is common knowledge that lower-level employees associate with semi-religious organisations or caste-based forums. Any attempts to prohibit the same can erode political support.

However, representatives of the employee organisations, on whom the restrictions would have applied had they not been lifted, have a different interpretation of the whole move. They say the scope of the ban as far as the language of the first circular was concerned was wide. They saw this as a move to prevent them from unionising and demanding welfare measures for themselves. Some of them even claim credit for the withdrawal.

Greater Chennai, northern T.N. may shape poll results

The Dravidian majors had pronounced successes in specific regions in recent elections

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Pon Vasanth B.A.

As Tamil Nadu braces for the results of its Assembly elections, the two Dravidian majors – the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) – are keeping their fingers crossed to see whose votes the debutant Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) eats into more.

A region-wise and margin-wise analysis of the last two elections, in 2016 and 2021, shows that the AIADMK, in the recently concluded voting for 2026, needs to not only retain its hold in the western region but also gain ground in the northern, central and Greater Chennai regions, which it had ceded to the DMK-led alliance in 2021, to get back to power. For this analysis, the parties have been grouped based on their alliances in 2026.

The 2016 Assembly election, which the AIADMK won, stands out as one of the most closely contested elections in Tamil Nadu in the past few decades. The AIADMK and the DMK won 89 seats each in the 178 seats in which they were facing each other.

In 2021, the north and Greater Chennai regions – which include the most urbanised areas of the State – tipped the scales heavily in favour of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA). The Greater Chennai region consists of constituencies from Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts. As shown in **Chart 2**, most of the gains of the SPA, which won a total of 159 seats, were concentrated in the central, southern and Greater Chennai regions. The central region includes constituencies from the Ariyalur, Karur, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Tiruchirappalli districts. The SPA gained about 19 seats in the central region. This was followed by gains of 14 seats each in the Greater Chennai and southern regions. Interestingly, though the seats gained were more in the central region, the SPA's gains in terms of vote share were higher in the Greater Chennai region.

In the Greater Chennai region, the SPA secured over 55.1% of the votes, about 9 percentage points higher than what it had secured in 2016 **(Table 3)**. In the northern region, the alliance secured over 49.4% of the votes, about 5 percentage points higher than in the previous election.

While the SPA gained 14 seats in the southern region, which includes constituencies from Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tenkasi, Theni, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar, its gain in vote share was a negligible 0.3 percentage points.

The AIADMK-led alliance, however, retained its dominance in the western region in 2021 despite a small decline in its vote share. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 41 of the 57 seats in the region, which comprises Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Salem, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur. Its vote share in the region was 47.7%, nearly five percentage points lower than in 2016.

Data also indicates that the number of close contests came down overall. In 88 constituencies, the victory margins were within 5% in 2016 **(Chart 4)**. This came down to 67 in 2021. The western region was an outlier, as the constituencies where victory margins were within 5% went up from 22 in 2016 to 25 in 2021.

The entry of actor Vijay's party is expected to throw up surprises. An intense battle between all three would lead to closer margins in more constituencies. Conversely, if the TVK competes with one of the two Dravidian majors for the runner-up spot, the winner may receive a larger share of the seats.

Battle for regions

Data for the charts were sourced from Lok Dhaba. The alliances for the analysis are based on current alliances

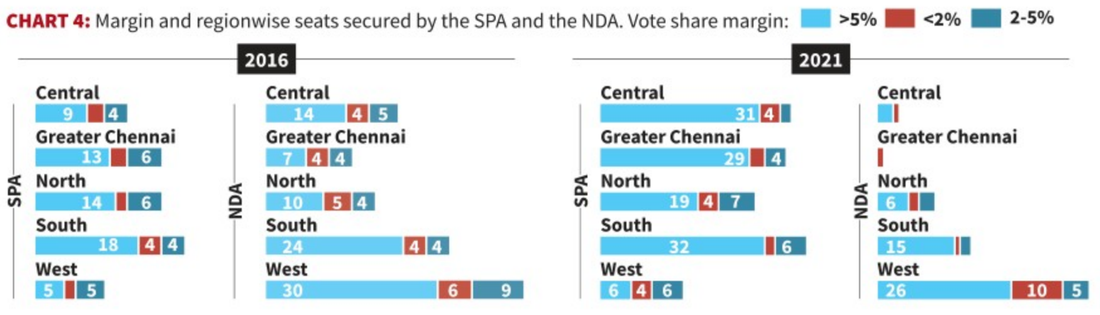
CHART 1: Regionwise split of constituencies

TABLE 3: The regionwise vote share secured in 2021 Assembly election, and change (in % points) when compared to 2016 polls

Region	SPA		NDA		NTK		Others	
	2021	↑↓	2021	↑↓	2021	↑↓	2021	↑↓
Central	50.1	4.7	40.2	-8.7	7	5.9	2.7	-1.9
Greater Chennai	55.1	9.1	34.4	-14.8	8.2	6.7	2.4	-0.9
North	49.4	4.6	43	-7	5.1	4.5	2.4	-2.3
South	46.2	0.3	42.4	-4.7	7.8	6.6	3.5	-2.3
West	44.6	1.8	47.7	-4.9	5.1	4.2	2.6	-1.1

CHART 2: Seats secured by the SPA and AIADMK-led alliance in 2021, and change (in % points) when compared to 2016 polls

CHART 4: Margin and regionwise seats secured by the SPA and the NDA. Vote share margin: >5% <2% 2-5%



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1976

CIA activities: MPs' fears allayed

New Delhi, April 29: The Deputy Home Minister, Mr. F.H. Mohsin, to-day assured members who expressed concern in the Lok Sabha over the activities of CIA that the Government had taken serious notice of all that had been published in this regard. The Government was in no way less concerned about the security of the country than the members and the utmost vigilance was being maintained.

Mr. Mohsin who was replying to points made in a half-hour discussion raised by Mr. Bhogendra Jha (CPI) said what was being done by the Government was not a matter to be publicised. Mr. Jha and four other members – Mr. C.K. Chandrappan, Mr. Bamavatar Shastri and Mr. S. M. Banerjee (all CPI) and Mr. B.V. Naik (Congress) – referred to the disclosures of CIA activities made by the press and in a report of a committee of the United States Senate. They also sought to know whether the Government had gone into allegations of CIA links with some of the organisations in India. Mr. Mohsin said the Government had no information to prove CIA links with some of the organisations mentioned by members in the debate. However, the Government was vigilant not only about organisations mentioned in the discussion but there were many more organisations on which a watch was "necessary".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1926

Liquor smuggling in Canada

Ottawa, April 28: Sensational statements with regard to the alleged connection of high officials with smuggled liquor and motor-cars are made in a confidential report of Inspector Duncan to the Special Committee of the Commons, which is enquiring into this matter. Mr. Duncan asserts that investigations showed that large quantities of liquor were being shipped from the Government warehouses at Montreal to various officials at Ottawa, contrary to liquor laws, during the past three years.

The report also implicates a number of customs officers of Montreal in connections with the seizure of smuggled or stolen motor-cars, which Mr. Duncan alleges were secured for the private use of officials.

From Page One

Growth in industrial output at 5-month low

According to Ms. Deshpande, this is not the first data point showing the stress in the manufacturing sector.

"The Purchasing Managers' Index also slipped in March from February but remained in the expansion zone, indicating the likely uneven impact of the conflict across sectors and time based on their ability to absorb the shock."

"The March data captures only a part of the shock as uncertainty and weak producer sentiment have yet to fully manifest in production data," she added. "The deeper impact is expected to show up down the road, particularly in the first quarter of this fiscal."

UAE announces exit from OPEC group

The UAE's withdrawal from OPEC will not necessarily have any immediate effects in markets since oil supplies are sharply constrained by the war in Iran, which has closed off the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which one-fifth of global oil supplies is transported.

OPEC, based in Vienna, accounts for roughly 40% of the world's oil output, but its market power had been waning in recent years as the U.S. ramped up production. The UAE had been a longtime member of OPEC, first through its emirate of Abu Dhabi in 1967 and later when the UAE became its own country in 1971. It had been producing around 3.4 million barrels of crude a day just before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on February 28.

ATS begins probe into Thane knife attack

During a search of his apartment, the police said they recovered handwritten notes allegedly indicating his desire to join the Islamic State, a banned terrorist organisation. His mobile phone, laptop, and other electronic devices have been seized and are being examined.

"We are probing the motive to attack the guards and his links with a terrorist organisation," a police officer from the Naya Nagar police station said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis called it "a case of self-radicalisation". "He was radicalised and possessed incriminating material. In the name of Jihad, he had a desire to attack members of the Hindu community. The investigation agencies will probe the entire network behind his radicalisation," he said.

Trump 'unhappy' with Iran's peace proposal

White House spokesperson Olivia Wales said the U.S. has "been clear about our red lines" as it seeks to end the war it began in February alongside Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran's Deputy Defence Minister Reza Talaei-Nik said on Tuesday that Tehran was ready to share defensive weapons capabilities and experiences gained from "America's defeat" with "independent" nations including those of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which includes Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian states.

Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani told state media on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic had prepared for maritime blockade scenarios as early as the U.S. presidential election in 2024, and made necessary arrangements so that "there is nothing to worry about".

She added Tehran was using northern, eastern, and western trade corridors that do not rely on Gulf ports to neutralise the blockade's effects.

Decline in shipping

Between 125 and 140 ships usually crossed in and out of the strait daily before the war, but only seven have done so in the past day, according to Kpler ship-tracking data and satellite analysis from SynMax, and none of them were carrying oil bound for the global market.

Senior Iranian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposal carried by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Islamabad over the weekend envisioned talks in stages, with the nuclear issue to be set aside at the start.

Mr. Araghchi has shuttled in and out of Islamabad twice during the weekend. He also visited Oman and on Monday went to Russia, where he met President Vladimir Putin and received words of support from a longstanding ally.

Conditions set

A first step under the Iranian proposal would require ending the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and providing guarantees that the U.S. cannot start it up again. Then negotiators would resolve the U.S. Navy's blockade of Iran's trade by sea and the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran aims to reopen under its control.

Only then would talks look at other issues, including the longstanding dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, with Iran still seeking some kind of U.S. acknowledgment of its right to enrich uranium.

Rajnath Singh calls for unified SCO approach to eliminate terrorism

The Minister says the real test for SCO members lies in maintaining consistency and rejecting double standard, particularly in addressing state-sponsored cross-border terrorism; he calls for a more 'orderly world' rather than a 'new world order'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressing the SCO Defence Ministers' meet in Bishkek on Tuesday. ANI

Terrorism remains the most serious threat to global peace and the emerging world order, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Bishkek.

Emphasising zero tolerance, he called for a unified and consistent approach to eliminate terrorism, extremism, and radicalism in all forms.

Mr. Singh underscored that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances, asserting that it has no nationality and no theology. He stressed that no grievance, real or perceived, can excuse violence against innocent people.

Highlighting the importance of credibility, he said the real test for SCO member states lies in maintaining consistency and rejecting double standard, particularly in addressing state-sponsored cross-border terrorism and safe havens.

Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, Mr. Singh said the carnage had shaken the conscience of humanity and reaffirmed India's resolve to hold perpetrators accountable. He noted that through Operation Sindoor, India demonstrated that terrorism epicentres were no longer immune from response. He also recalled the Tianjin Declaration, which reflects the collective commitment of SCO nations to combat terrorism decisively.

'Three evils'

The Defence Minister highlighted the role of SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in countering radicalisation and extremism.

He said tackling the "three evils" – terrorism, separatism and extremism – required a unified front, stronger cooperation, and decisive action against those who supported or sheltered terror networks.

Beyond security concerns, Mr. Singh pointed to the broader global context marked by increasing unilateralism, conflicts, and a fractured world order. He noted that nations were becoming more inward-looking, weakening global consensus, and cooperation. In such a scenario, he said, the SCO has a pivotal role to play in promoting stability, dialogue and mutual respect.

Describing the SCO region as home to some of the world's most ancient civilisations, Mr. Singh said it reflectd a shared heritage of cultural exchange, trade and cooperation. He emphasised that this legacy should guide member nations in addressing present-day challenges collectively.

Calling for a more "orderly world" rather than a new world order, Mr. Singh stressed the need for dignity, respect, and peaceful coexistence among nations. He urged SCO members to prioritise diplomacy over conflict and ensure that the current era was defined by peace and prosperity, not war.

Reaffirming India's commitment, Mr. Singh invoked the philosophy of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' – the world is one family – and expressed confidence that stronger cooperation within the SCO could transform regional security challenges into opportunities for lasting peace and stability.

44 illegal telecom hubs shut in 2 years: Centre tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom "dismantled" 44 illegal telecom centres, including SIM box operations, across the country in the past two years, according to a Home Ministry report submitted in the Supreme Court.

The department said the sustained action happened between April 2024 and October 2025, and was carried out in coordination with local law enforcement agencies.

It was responding to a question from Attorney-General R. Venkataramani during an Inter-Departmental Committee meeting of the Home Ministry in March. The minutes of the meeting were part of the records annexed to a status report submitted by Mr. Venkataramani on the Centre's behalf.

The meeting was attended by representatives of telecom service providers, such as Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, Reliance Jio and BSNL.

The records were placed before the top court in connection with a *suo motu* case on digital arrests and other cybercrimes.

SC seeks meeting to discuss CCTV funds for police stations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

SC asked Centre to install CCTVs in offices of all agencies which have the power to arrest

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked *amicus curiae* and senior advocate Siddharth Dave to convene a meeting of representatives of States and Union Territories on the question of utilisation of Central funds to install CCTV cameras in police stations.

A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath asked Mr. Dave to hold the meeting on May 6. The hearing was based on *suo motu* cognisance taken by the court on the issue of video coverage of police stations, especially in lock-up areas and interrogation rooms, to prevent custodial torture.

Mr. Dave informed the court that the Centre fully funds CCTV installations in Union Territories and bears 90% of the costs in hilly States. It provides 60% of the funds for other States, which pitch in with 40%. The court posted the next hearing for May 13.

In 2015, the court had directed States to install CCTV cameras in jails and consider the same in police stations and lock-ups. In 2020, it ordered the Centre to install CCTVs and recording equipment in offices of the Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Serious Fraud Investigation Office and "any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest".

ED attaches assets worth about ₹3,035 cr. in RCom bank fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anil Ambani after being questioned by the CBI in New Delhi on March 19 in connection with a complaint filed by SBI. ANI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth about ₹3,034.9 crore in the Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom) "bank fraud" case. The value of total attachment in the Reliance Anil Ambani Group cases is now over ₹19,344 crore.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted on the Supreme Court's directions is probing the cases of alleged diversion and laundering of funds.

"Investigation was initiated based on multiple CBI FIRs registered on the complaints of State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Life Insurance Corporation of India, against RCom, Anil D. Ambani, and others," the ED said.

RCom and its group companies took loans from domestic and foreign lenders of which a total amount of ₹40,185 crore is allegedly outstanding.

"ED investigation revealed certain assets of the Promoter Group, including a flat in the Usha Kiran Building (Mumbai), a farmhouse in Khandala (Pune), and a land parcel in Sanand, Ahmedabad. Besides, 7.71 crore shares of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., held by Risee Infinity Pvt. Ltd., a group entity of Anil Ambani under the RiseE Trust umbrella (a private family trust of the members of Anil Ambani's family), were also attached.

"The RiseE Trust was set up to ensure wealth preservation and resource generation by aggregation of properties in RiseE Trust and shield it from the personal liabilities of Anil Ambani in the form of personal guarantees extended by him to lender banks against the loans sanctioned to RCom," it said.

The properties were intended to be beneficially used and owned by the Anil Ambani family and not for the distressed public banks whose loans turned non-performing assets, alleged the agency.

It said that under Section 8 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, confiscated property would be restored to legitimate claimants who suffered loss, including the banks. The Ambani family, in a statement, clarified that the Usha Kiran property was a legacy family asset, acquired 41 years ago; the Khandala property was also a legacy family asset, acquired over four decades ago.

"MICA is an AICTE-recognised charitable educational institution that has operated independently since 1991," it said.

Drug trafficking suspect arrested in India after deportation from Turkiye

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An NCB team takes Mohammed Salim Dola into custody after his arrival at the IGI airport in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

An alleged drug trafficking kingpin having links with the Dawood Ibrahim syndicate was detained by Turkish agencies in Beylikdüzü and deported to India on Tuesday.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) took him into custody on his arrival at the airport here.

"Zero tolerance against the narco syndicate. The @narcoticsbureau today made a major breakthrough in securing the return of notorious drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Türkiye. Under the Modi government's mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their reach across borders. Now, no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug kingpins," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on X.

'Operation Global Hunt'

The accused has been brought back from Türkiye under "Operation Global-Hunt".

The NCB produced him before a Delhi court that granted a two-day transit remand to the agency for taking him to Mumbai.

It is learnt that Dola had been living in Beylikdüzü under a pseudonym, using a passport purportedly issued by the UAE. He was picked up by Turkish enforcement organisations following inputs from Indian agencies. Earlier, an Interpol Red Notice had been issued against him in 2024 at India's request.

"Over the years, Dola had established a major transnational drug trafficking syndicate spanning a number of countries in the Middle East [West Asia], Africa, and Europe. His two-decade-long criminal antecedents include direct involvement in cases pertaining to multiple high-value seizures of heroin, charas, mephedrone, mandrax and methamphetamine in Maharashtra and Gujarat," the NCB said, adding that he is also wanted by the Anti-Terrorism Squad of Gujarat.

Born in 1966 in the Byculla area of Mumbai, Dola was first arrested at the Mumbai airport on the charge of trying to smuggle mandrax tablets. In 2017, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence linked him to gutkha smuggling via Gujarat's Pipavav port.

CBI official, ex-ACP get jail in 26-year-old case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Around 26 years after the incident, a Delhi court on Tuesday sentenced CBI Joint Director Ramneesh Geer and retired Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Vivek Pandey to three months' imprisonment in a case related to a controversial search operation conducted on October 19, 2000, at the house of Indian Revenue Service officer Ashok Kumar Aggarwal. The court later granted bail to the accused.

As per the complaint, officials from the CBI and the Delhi Police forcibly entered the premises of the IRS officer, without lawful justification.The complaint said that the raid was motivated by personal vendetta rather than legitimate investigative grounds.

APPEAL

Thiyagarajan is 47 years old suffering from Double Vessels Disease and is advised to undergo surgery at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is Rs.2,00,000/- He is working in a saloon shop with poor income. They are not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.
All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Trinamool accuses EC's police observer of serious misconduct

IPS officer has appeared in a viral video clip allegedly warning local people of severe consequences if they fail to reveal the whereabouts of a party candidate; BJP hails him on social media as an 'encounter specialist'; poll panel yet to reveal stand

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Ajay Pal Sharma, a 2011-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, who appeared in a viral video clip allegedly warning local people of severe consequences if they failed to reveal the whereabouts of Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan in Falta in the Diamond Harbour constituency, was not included in the initial list of 84 police observers released by the Election Commission on April 17.

Mr. Sharma, currently posted as Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Prayagraj, was brought in on Sunday as the police observer for four Assembly constituencies in South 24 Parganas, replacing Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, a 2017-batch IPS officer from the Odisha cadre.

The Trinamool Congress has accused Mr. Parshottamdas of serious misconduct and breach of neutrality as he allegedly met Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Gour Sundar Ghosh at a hotel on April 20. The Trinamool has now accused Mr. Sharma of intimidating and threatening locals.

Trinamool Congress supporters staging a protest against police observer Ajay Pal Sharma in Falta on Tuesday. PTI

According to reports, Mr. Sharma has faced enquiries in at least two FIRs in Uttar Pradesh related to alleged corruption, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. On Tuesday, a woman also registered a complaint at the Falta police station accusing him of assault and forced entry into her residence late at night.

However, the BJP has hailed him on social media as an "encounter specialist". There was no response from the EC on the allegations made by the Trinamool. Polling for the second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections will be held on Wednesday.

According to the Election Commission, a "police observer is an IPS officer to monitor all activities related to force deployment, law and order situation and coordinate between the civil and police administration to ensure a free and fair election in the assigned constituency".

There are two other categories of observers – general and counting. Each observer is assigned responsibilities and has to update their activities on the EC's internal portal.

A retired government official questioned the conduct of Mr. Sharma as a police observer.

Retired IAS officer K.B.S. Sidhu, who was the former Special Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, and served as an election observer on multiple occasions, said that though Mr. Sharma was entirely within his remit when he inspected the security arrangement at the candidate's residence and put the Superintendent of Police on written notice for the unsanctioned excess of personnel, "he crossed the line".

"The moment he shifted from that written, channelised report to publicly admonishing a candidate's family before cameras, he crossed the line. An observer is the Commission's confidential eyes and ears, not a parallel magistrate empowered to issue warnings in public," said Mr. Sidhu.

He added that the EC's authority, under Article 324 of the Constitution, is a reservoir of power, not an ocean without shores. "The Falta episode is a useful reminder that in a constitutional democracy, even the watchdogs of free and fair elections must themselves act within the law. And even the local police and district administration work under the EC during elections. There was no need to appear in the area as a Rambo with his own crack team," he said.

A police observer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "Observers are the eyes and ears of the EC. Any area domination plan or deployment at booths is done in their presence. They can move around for patrolling with Central forces but any complaint has to be acted upon by the local police and report sent to the EC."

Rahul meets Nicobarese community, promises to fight against infra project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hearty reception: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being welcomed by a member of the Nicobarese community during his visit. PTI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday visited the Great Nicobar Island and met with Nicobarese community leaders at Rajiv Nagar in Campbell Bay. They explained their concerns and fears about the Union government's ₹92,000-crore infrastructure project on the island.

Mr. Gandhi's visit to Nicobar comes weeks after a delegation from the island visited him in New Delhi to raise their issues with the way the Union government is proceeding with the "holistic development" project. A draft master plan envisions the island as a tourism-reliant economy by 2055.

Addressing the attendees at the community hall in Rajiv Nagar, Mr. Gandhi said he had promised to visit the Island when he met with the Nicobarese delegation. "I don't want to say much here today. I am here to listen to you and assure you that we will do whatever we can to fight for you," he said.

He added that he had made it to the island despite the local administration first refusing permission and later coming up with "excuses" to prevent him from reaching the island. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Congress in-charge, Manickam Tagore, said in a statement on Tuesday that Mr. Gandhi's visit to Nicobar had been possible even "after all the hurdles created by the administration under Amit Shah".

"For the first time, tribal communities will have a direct opportunity to express their concerns, struggles, and aspirations to the Leader of Opposition. While Narendra Modi has chosen not to listen to their voices, decisions have been made to hand over precious forests and land to his corporate friend Gautam Adani," Mr. Tagore further said.

Village maps

Leaders of the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar told *The Hindu* that they shared their anxieties about the Centre's project, and also explained their demand to return to their ancestral lands and villages along the island's west coast.

"We were also able to show him the maps marking our ancestral villages across the island," one leader said, adding that Mr. Gandhi assured them of raising their issues in Parliament as well.

BJD seeks 'urgent, decisive' EC intervention on its Rajya Sabha polling complaint

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday again demanded "urgent and decisive" intervention by the Election Commission (EC) on the complaint it has raised on the Rajya Sabha polling issue, and the issuance of second ballot papers to Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs Upasana Mohapatra and Purna Chandra Sethy.

In an email addressed to the EC, Sasmit Patra, a BJD Rajya Sabha member, reminded the commission of his party's March 18 complaint on the "illegal" issuance of second ballot papers to two MLAs during the poll.

Sasmit Patra

"The issuance of a second ballot paper, after the first ballot had already been marked, is *ex facie* contrary to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, which permit issuance of a replacement ballot only upon strict compliance with the 'spoilt ballot' procedure. The deviation from the prescribed statutory procedure is not merely technical but goes to the root of the election, as it directly impacts ballot accounting, voter intent, and the sanctity of the vote," Mr. Patra said.

In a Rajya Sabha election, where the electoral college is limited and each ballot carries determinative value, such illegality has a material and outcome-altering effect, Mr. Patra said.

"The objections and submissions were officially videographed and photographed by the commission's designated personnel, forming part of the official record. Despite this, and despite the prior complaints submitted during polling and escalation by the party president, no response, clarification, or action taken report has been communicated till date," he said.

Nishant's yatra will decide politics of Bihar: JD(U)

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar will begin his first outreach programme with *Sadbhav Yatra* from Bagaha in West Champaran on May 3.

Janata Dal (United) State president Umesh Singh Kushwaha on Tuesday said that the yatra would shape the direction of the State politics for the next three-to-four decades.

"During his journey, he will meet with party workers from the panchayat level to the booth level and will engage in dialogue with them," he said.

Mr. Kushwaha, Leader of the JD(U) Legislature Party Shrawon Kumar and other party functionaries will take part in the yatra.

Hold all-party meet to build consensus on implementing women's quota, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday sharpened its attack on the Centre over the implementation of the women's reservation law, with party general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh urging the Prime Minister to convene an all-party meeting to evolve a consensus roadmap.

In a post on the social media platform X, Mr. Ramesh said that with the election campaign now over, the Prime Minister should act on the Opposition's demand – raised consistently since mid-March – for consultations on operationalising the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023.

Jairam Ramesh

He alleged that the government's attempt to push through a "diabolical delimitation" exercise had "failed miserably" due to "Opposition unity and solidarity", and said the focus must now shift to ensuring the women's quota is implemented.

"An all-party meeting should be convened to discuss how the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, (that was finally notified in panic only in the late hours of April 16, 2026) can be put into effect with the existing strength of the Lok Sabha from 2029. It is possible. It is desirable. It is essential," the senior Congress leader said.

'Centre's objective'

He further contended that women's reservation "was never the issue" during the Special Session of Parliament, maintaining that the government's primary objective had been delimitation. "It is now time for the Prime Minister to make amends for his sins of using India's women to drive through his personal political agenda and to instead deliver justice to them," Mr. Ramesh said.

Team stopped from visiting Ghazipur girl's family: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP of presiding over a sharp rise in atrocities against Dalits, and OBCs in States under its rule.

The Congress alleged that its leaders had been unlawfully stopped from meeting the family of a 17-year-old girl found dead in Ghazipur of Uttar Pradesh earlier. It demanded that cases be registered against the officials concerned as the fundamental rights of its members were violated.

While the girl's family has alleged sexual assault and murder, the police have registered a case but said the post-mortem suggested drowning, with preliminary findings indicating a possible suicide.

Sikkim's natural farming is a model for the entire country, says Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Sikkim out-thought the rest of the country by at least a decade to adopt and create a national template for organic farming.

He also urged people visiting the Himalayan State to set aside 5% of their budget to buy local products, a habit that can go a long way in helping India attain the goal of self-sufficiency.

Addressing people at an event in Gangtok to mark the 50th year of Sikkim's Statehood, Mr. Modi said the tiny State was leading the way for India's organic food mission.

"We have prioritised organic food 10 years after Sikkim went organic. Sikkim's natural farming is a model for the entire country," he said, lauding the State for possessing 25% of the floral diversity in India despite covering less than 1% of the country's landmass.

Lighter moment: Prime Minister Narendra Modi playing football with youth in Gangtok on Tuesday. ANI

Impact of tourism

"Sikkim has about 500 bird and 700 butterfly species. It has a rich forest cover, while the majestic Kanchenjunga is a tourist attraction. Nature has blessed Sikkim, which is why people want to visit the State time and again," the Prime Minister said, noting the impact of tourism on Sikkim's economy.

He cited a National Highway and the Sevoke-Rangpo railway projects as examples of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre's focus on improving connectivity and infrastructure to boost tourism in Sikkim. At the same time, he slammed the Congress for allegedly ignoring Sikkim and other northeastern States whenever it was in power at the Centre.

"Things which the BJP government is doing today could have been done earlier," Mr. Modi said. He said that the Sevoke-Rangpo railway project did not progress after its approval in 2008 until the BJP government took it up.

"The ongoing projects will boost tourism in Sikkim, augmenting the income of local people," he said, exuding confidence that the tourist footfall in the State this year would surpass all records.

He underlined the Centre's push to improve healthcare services in Sikkim through 200 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, four district hospitals, tertiary-care hospitals, wellness centres, and other health facilities.

"For us, the Northeast is not just an important part of the country, but also Bharat's *Ashtalakshmi*. That's why we have resolved to 'Act Fast' after working on the 'Act East' policy," he said.

Modi slams Opposition over women's quota, unveils key projects in Varanasi

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday accused Opposition parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP), and others of allegedly stalling amendments to the women's reservation Bill in Parliament.

Addressing a Jan Aakrosh Mahila Sammelan in his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, Mr. Modi assured women that he will "leave no stone unturned" to ensure that their right to reservation in legislative bodies is implemented.

"These dynastic parties are unwilling to permit the daughters of our nation to reach the Assembly and Parliament. They are aware that if the daughters who are active in the community ascend to leadership positions, they will lose their grip on power. Their authority will be challenged. This is the reason why the dynastic parties have taken the lead in the protests within Parliament. The sisters and daughters of the nation have discerned their malicious intentions," he said.

Special visit: Women arriving to attend a meeting addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi on Tuesday. AFP

New opportunities

"I once again assure all my sisters that I will leave no stone unturned to ensure that your right to reservation is implemented," he added.

He noted that "new opportunities" have been established for women in the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy.

"The gates of defence forces have also been opened for them. The mission of the BJP government is to empower women. Daughters of India are excelling in every domain. Their contributions should be amplified, as the nation requires their services," the PM said.

In Varanasi, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple projects worth over ₹6,000 crore. Key infrastructure projects include the completion of the Varanasi-Azamgarh Road widening, the opening of critical rail lines over the bridges at Kazzakpura and Kadipur, and a sewage treatment plant with a 55 MLD capacity in Bhagwanpur.

"These infrastructure-related projects will accelerate development in the Purvanchal region. The newly inaugurated and upcoming projects are significant steps toward balanced and holistic regional development, aiming to improve facilities in both rural and urban areas," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi reached Varanasi in the afternoon and was received by Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, several Ministers and senior BJP leaders.

INBRIEF

HC grants one-week interim bail to Engineer Rashid

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted one-week interim bail to the jailed Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, to enable him to visit his ailing father. The court ordered that during this period, Mr. Rashid could either visit the hospital where his father is being treated or remain at home. The court said two police officials would accompany him in plainclothes at all times, and there shall not be any "undue visitors" except immediate family members. The Baramulla MP, who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, is facing trial in a terror funding case, with allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in 2017.

'ISI-backed Khalistanis' held for IED explosion on rail line

Four people have been arrested by the Punjab Police for triggering a low-intensity IED blast on a railway track near Shambhu in Patiala district on Monday. The police describe the suspects as "radicalised habitual criminals" who were running a Khalistani terror module that was receiving support from Pakistan's ISI. The Opposition, meanwhile, cornered the Aam Aadmi Party government, blaming it for the deteriorating law and order in the State. The suspects have been identified as Pardeep Singh Khalsa and Kulwinder Singh alias Bagga of Mansa, Satnam Singh alias Satta and Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi of Tarn Taran, police said. The accused have been previously booked for heinous crimes.

9,400 accounts banned for being linked to digital arrests

In documents before Supreme Court, WhatsApp says its probe began from the initial input from govt. sources to identify and run down the creators or administrators behind scam operations

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Documents placed on record in the Supreme Court show WhatsApp asserting to the Home Ministry that it detected and banned up to 9,400 accounts linked to "digital arrests" and "law enforcement impersonations" after independent investigations.

The platform said it had focused on bringing down the entire network of scamsters, mostly active in Cambodia.

Not isolated

Warning signals sent from probe agencies and the Union government are not treated as isolated or one-off reports, but as a "seed" to map and disrupt the entire criminal network, the platform said.

The platform said its probe fanned out from the initial "seed" input from government sources to identify and run down the creators or administrators behind scam operations such as digital arrests or accounts actively promoting scam activity within groups and channels.

The communication between WhatsApp and the Home Ministry was annexed to a status report filed on behalf of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) by the Ministry. Attorney-General R. Venkataramani appears for the Ministry in the Supreme Court.

The report said several steps were discussed in a meeting convened by the Inter-Departmental Committee under the chairmanship of the Special Secretary (Internal Security) in March. WhatsApp, along with major telecom service providers (TSPs) such as Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, Reliance Jio, and BSNL, were invited.

WhatsApp said its work on SIM binding – linking the account with the physical SIM card – was on and the platform would comply with the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. These include the provisions related to identification and labelling of 'Synthetically Generated Information' (SGI) commonly used in video calls made for 'digital arrests'.

The Ministry and other stakeholders also agreed on introducing mechanisms for identifying and blocking device IDs used in digital arrest scams. WhatsApp said it would continue to strengthen Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning-based systems to detect impersonation of law enforcement agencies, misuse of official logos and synthetic content.

Detection models

The report said the online platform has introduced detection models and warning mechanisms to identify impersonation patterns and alert users. It had further agreed to retain data of deleted accounts for a minimum period of 180 days to assist law enforcement investigations.

Recently, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had flagged digital arrest scams the "most disturbing" and lethal among cybercrimes, which not only result in merely financial loss to victims but also a "blistering sense of violation". The CJI had said that such crimes must not be seen as mere economic offences, but an offence against human dignity.

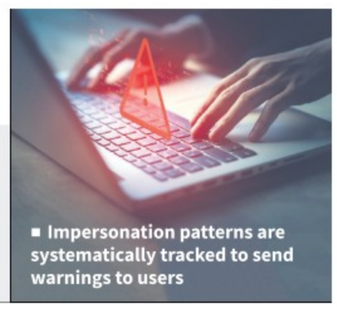
The Home Ministry had clocked over 2.41 lakh complaints related to digital arrests scams alone, involving losses of approximately ₹30,000 crore.

The CJI's Bench had taken *suo motu* cognisance of digital arrests scams in January this year, saying that victims were psychologically coerced by fraudsters dressed up convincingly as police officers and judicial officers to cough up huge sums of their savings to avert fictional arrests or punitive action. One of the cases before the Supreme Court was that of a 78-year-old woman lawyer, who was duped by fraudsters in a digital arrest scam.

Curbing virtual fraud

The government and industry stakeholders are taking coordinated measures to fight digital scams

- WhatsApp is working on SIM binding — linking the account with physical SIM card — to detect SIM swapping and cloning
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems being used to detect impersonation of law enforcement agencies, misuse of official logos and synthetic content



- Impersonation patterns are systematically tracked to send warnings to users

Tiringly hot: Workers sit under the sun at a construction site in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

Give rest hours and water to workers, Centre tells States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour Ministry has issued advisories to all States, Union Territories and its attached organisations, seeking immediate "preventive and mitigation measures" to safeguard workers and labourers from the adverse effects of the heat wave conditions in the country.

In a communication to the Chief Secretaries and Administrators, the Ministry said there was a need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach to protect workers, particularly those employed in outdoor and labour-intensive sectors.

The Union government asked the States to issue necessary directions to employers, industries, and construction companies for immediate implementation of worker safety measures, such as re-scheduling of working hours for employees in different sectors, ensuring adequate drinking water facilities and making provision for rest areas and cooling of workplaces.

Ice packs, check-ups

The advisory also recommends making provision for emergency ice packs and heat illness prevention material in workplaces such as construction sites, and coordinating with the Health Departments to ensure regular check-up of the workers.

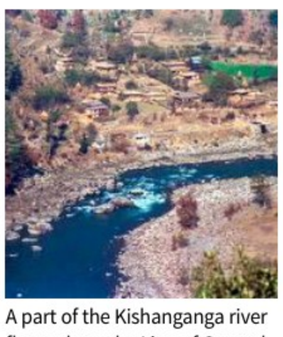
"Factory and mine managements have also been advised to allow greater flexibility to workers, including slowing the pace of work during periods of extreme heat, assigning two-person crew where continuous work is unavoidable, providing rest areas and ensuring sufficient ventilation and cooling arrangements," the Union government said. Special attention must be given to construction workers, brick kiln workers, daily wage earners and casual labourers, it said.

Funeral held across LoC revives call to reopen crossing points

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

When Raja Liaquat Ali Khan died of a heart attack on April 26, his divided family gathered on both banks of the 300-foot-wide Kishanganga river to conduct a unique funeral that has renewed the spotlight on the closed crossing-points across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir.

Khan was a resident of Kupwara's Keran village, which borders the LoC. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) lies on the other side, where the river is known as the Neelam. Khan's brothers and sisters living on the PoK side were forced to bid him farewell from a distance, watching the funeral from across the waters.



A part of the Kishanganga river flows along the Line of Control.

A video of the funeral, in which Khan's brothers and sisters can be seen waving at the coffin, has gone viral online, with netizens on both sides of the LoC demanding a review of the current policy which has prevented such divided families from meetings at the erstwhile crossing-points.

Ravinder Pandita, president of the All-India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), said, "The deceased's sisters and other family members crossed into PoK in 1989-90 during the militancy turmoil. The divided families, however, were helped by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on humanitarian grounds. They were allowed to meet each other on LoC on permit, which stands inoperational since 2019 after the Balakote strikes."

In 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) suspended the cross-LoC trade over allegations of "funnelling of illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency". It also ended the cross-LoC bus service, which had been started between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on April 7, 2005.

Webinar to discuss role of managers in AI era as uncertainties mount

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar on "The New-Age Manager: Leading in an AI-Driven, Uncertain World" will be held at 11.30 a.m. on May 2 as a part of the "Future Career Conversations" series, jointly organised by SRM Institute of Science and Technology and *The Hindu*.

This series is tailored for undergraduate aspirants, postgraduate students, and professionals looking to deepen their expertise and advance their careers.

The panel features A. Vinay Kumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Faculty of Science and Humanities and the Faculty of Management, SRMIST; Geetha Ramamurthi, global GCC leader and former Managing Director, KBR Inc.; and Roch Ferreira, Global Vice-President and Head of Corporate Marketing, Virtusa Corporation.

M. Soundariya Preetha, Deputy Chief of Bureau, Coimbatore, *The Hindu*, will moderate the session. To register, visit https://newsth.live/THSRMAE or scan the QR code.

Odisha acts fast after tribal man carries sister's remains to bank

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Bank had asked for necessary documents for withdrawal from the man's deceased sister's account

A day after a tribal man in Odisha's Keonjhar district carried his deceased sister's skeletal remains to a bank as proof of death in order to withdraw money from her account, the administration moved with unusual alacrity on Tuesday, completing all formalities and disbursing the payment within a single day.

Disturbing visuals of Jitu Munda of Diananali village under Patna block in Keonjhar district walking through the streets with the skeletal remains slung over his shoulder had gone viral, triggering widespread outrage.

"We issued the death certificate in the morning. The local tahsildar verified family details through the revenue inspector and promptly issued the legal heir certificate. Subsequently, bank officials handed over ₹19,300 to the family members," said Manas Dandpat, Block Development Officer of Patna block.

The Keonjhar district administration initiated a probe into the circumstances that forced Mr. Munda to carry the skeletal remains in full public view.

The incident occurred when Mr. Munda approached Odisha Grameen Bank, a regional rural bank sponsored by Indian Overseas Bank, to withdraw money from the account of his sister, Kalara Munda, who had died two months ago.

Asked by bank authorities to furnish necessary documents for withdrawal from a deceased person's account, Mr. Munda, unaware of banking procedures, dug up his sister's burial site, exhumed the skeletal remains, and walked about 2.5 km to the bank.

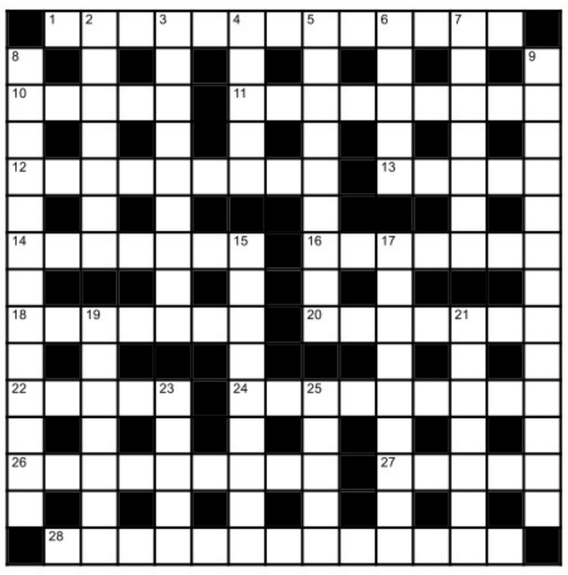
In a statement, Indian Overseas Bank said, "Bank's intention was to protect monies in the account of the poor tribal woman. There is no case of any harassment."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 14780

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Had returned in disarray - kept gunners hidden, undetected (5,3,5)
10 Imprisoned leader disposed of as he was indisposed (5)
11 Flow rate on board can be solved (9)
12 Find out why active retired men run away (9)
13 Initially some study and leave (5)
14 Moors' short reply to catch a thief in Delhi (7)
16 Fancy marketing mantra adopted by a group (7)
18 A recluse accepts money and distributes it among the poor (7)
20 Operator's tool to climb over parking line (7)
22 Manage to get initial guarantee from bank (5)
24 Close call for new grounding (4,5)
26 Operation was successful initially on family corruption (4,5)
27 Leaders in Masjids are mainly selected to lead the prayers (5)
28 Possibly repairing core of the old airmail system (7,6)

Down

2 Belonging to a family of the languages spoken in Egypt, nothing pertains to the ear (7)
3 Deride angrily and admit it keeps you warm (9)
4 Model suit tailored for one in Kigali, perhaps... (5)
5 ...besides eating balanced square meal (9)
6 Wagers earlier in Spain (5)
7 Egg plant - not in French restaurant (7)
8 Help lift car up and down - others get a heart attack (7,6)
9 Worried old-timers got a medical specialist (13)
15 Over time psychiatrist gets depreciation (9)
17 Bird takes time - that's astonishing (9)
19 Admire a bubbly wine (7)
21 Compatriot has no money upfront in India (7)
23 Keen to get inside a German university (5)
25 Misbehave with law, having state support (3,2)

SUDOKU

		4						
	8	5	3	4	6			
	1		7		2			4
	3	2	6					
	6	1		2		4	9	
					4	6	7	
8			9		3		4	
			2	6	8	7	5	
						3		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6865 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

D	E	A	R	T	H	■	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	S
E	■	C	■	R	■	■	A	■	A	■	A	■	E	■
S	P	A	R	E	D	■	M	I	G	R	A	T	E	D
C	■	D	■	E	■	M	■	S	■	D	■	S	■	A
R	E	E	K	■	S	O	M	E	R	S	A	U	L	T
I	■	M	■	A	■	T	■	T	■	H	■	P	■	E
B	R	I	N	G	T	O	A	H	E	A	D	■	■	■
E	■	C	■	G	■	R	■	E	■	R	■	F	■	I
■	■	■	P	R	E	S	C	R	I	P	T	I	O	N
P	■	E	■	E	■	C	■	O	■	S	■	N	■	S
S	E	V	A	S	T	O	P	O	L	■	C	A	R	P
Y	■	E	■	S	■	O	■	F	■	L	■	L	■	I
C	O	N	S	O	R	T	S	■	C	A	V	I	A	R
H	■	E	■	R	■	E	■	■	S	■	S	■	E	■
E	N	D	U	S	E	R	S	■	A	S	S	E	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	9	7	1	6	5	3	4
4	7	3	5	8	2	6	1	9
6	5	1	9	4	3	8	7	2
5	3	6	1	9	8	4	2	7
8	1	7	6	2	4	9	5	3
9	2	4	3	7	5	1	6	8
3	4	8	2	6	1	7	9	5
7	6	5	4	3	9	2	8	1
1	9	2	8	5	7	3	4	6

FAITH

Food is ultimate prayer

We are what we eat. The nutrition in the food nourishes our physique and influences our mind (thoughts). Our sastras say eating is a prayer and there is a deep philosophy behind the food we consume, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Our scriptures say moderate diet, moderate physical activity combined with moderate wakefulness will render a man healthy in life. The food one eats influences the mind. Once, Narada approached sage Sanatkumar and sought to be shown the path of knowledge. Sanatkumar asked Narada what he knew, to which the sage replied, "I am very well read, but I know only the words, and not their true meaning." Sanatkumar then says, "speech is greater than words, mind is better than speech, determination (will) is greater than mind, consciousness (presence of mind) is greater than will, meditation is better than that, knowledge is greater than meditation, physical strength is better than knowledge and nutritious food is better than physical strength.." and concludes by saying that while everything in this world is subject to change, the Supreme Lord is not, and one should seek Him.

One may ask how food can influence the mind. Lord Krishna explains this in the Bhagavad Gita (Chapter XVII). In keeping with the threefold nature of human beings, namely, satva, rajas and tamas, the food liked by each is also threefold.

Above all, the food we eat is what we are offering God – *Antaryami* – within us. When served with a prayer (chanting *Govinda, Govinda*), the food becomes the ultimate prayer.

INBRIEF

Rupee falls 53 paise to close at 94.68 against U.S. dollar

The rupee depreciated 53 paise to close at 94.68 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, as elevated crude oil prices and unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiments. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 94.35 against the U.S. dollar, then lost ground and settled for the day at 94.68, registering a fall of 53 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee closed at 94.15 against the U.S. dollar. PTI

No proposal to increase price of petrol after State polls

There is no proposal to increase petrol prices once the State elections conclude, said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Petroleum Ministry. "After April 1, I must inform that there is no proposal for increase in petrol prices," Ms. Sharma told reporters at an inter-ministerial press conference on the West Asia situation. The government had last increased the price of a certain premium variant of petrol, namely, XP95, Power95 and Speed, on the mentioned date.

Working group formed to study impact of scrap supplies

A working group has been formed to study the impact on supplies of aluminium scrap amid the escalating tensions in West Asia and to suggest recommendations, Piyush Goyal, Secretary at the Ministry of Mines, told reporters here on Tuesday. Escalating tensions in West Asia have contributed to a spike in prices of imported scrap with secondary aluminium producers seeking a relaxation in import duties. India levies a 2.5% import duty on import of aluminium scrap.

Crude oil imports slip by 2 MT over Jan.; 50% more costly

Amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, India paid ₹1.2 lakh crore for the March imports as opposed to ₹86,000 crore in January, representing a 40% increase overall, PPAC data showed

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Quick fix: The Centre had ordered ramping up of LPG production early March to compensate for the fall in imports. NAGARA GOPAL

In a reflection of the impact of the West Asia war that started end of February, India's crude oil imports dipped to some 19 million tonnes in March, down by 2 million tonnes from January and 1 million from the shorter month of February. March imports were the lowest since July 2025.

India paid ₹1.2 lakh crore for the March imports as opposed to ₹86,000 crore in January, representing a 40% increase overall, data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed. In terms of the price India has paid for unit imports, this is an increase of more than 50%.

Indigenous crude oil production was 2.17 million tonnes, same as January. India is the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer. Compared with March 2025, India's imports fell by almost 17% and imports of crude oil products declined by some 30%.

At nearly 1.4 million tonnes, domestic LPG production was up by 20% compared with January and 30% increase compared with February. The government had ordered a ramping up of LPG production early March to compensate for the fall in imports as a consequence of the West Asia war.

First, a 25% increase was claimed. Refineries were directed to maximise LPG output by diverting petrochemical streams. Then a 30% increase was claimed by government by mid-March, then 40% by late March.

In March, LPG imports fell from nearly 2.2 million tonnes in January to some 0.82 million, representing a decrease of more than 62%. The March Snapshot, published a few days ago, revealed that there was a pullback of nearly 8% in household LPG supply, nearly 50% reduction in non-household LPG supply, and 75% in bulk LPG supply compared with March 2025.

In March, the Indian government set in motion a process to bring back Indian-flagged LPG carriers stuck in the Persian Gulf region due to U.S.-Israel war on Iran. Four LPG carriers were brought back and reached India in March. They were carrying some 1.8 lakh tonnes of LPG.

The LPG import shortfall is estimated to be narrower in April. Meanwhile, India has contracted with many foreign ships to bring in LPG from the U.S. in May. Some of the Indian-flagged LPG ships that had been lying idle after unloading, may well be leaving for U.S. ports for loading, if surplus LPG was available there.

A.P. eyes second mega data centre in Vizag with Reliance as key partner

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The proposed Reliance-backed facility is expected to attract investments over ₹1.6 lakh crore

The Andhra Pradesh government is moving ahead with its plans to position Visakhapatnam as a major data infrastructure hub, with another large-scale data centre project in the pipeline involving Reliance Industries.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for a 1 GW Google hyperscale AI data centre in Visakhapatnam.

The project, estimated at around $15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore), is being developed as a joint venture involving AdaniConnex, Google Cloud, and Airtel Nxtra.

Another project

Parallelly, as per sources in the government, the State government is in the final stages of firming up another major data centre project of 1.5 GW in the same city, with Reliance expected to be the principal partner.

According to sources, discussions for this project began earlier, with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board confirming in November 2025 that negotiations were underway with Digital Connexion–a consortium comprising Reliance Industries, Brookfield, and Digital Realty.

The proposed Reliance-backed facility is expected to attract investments exceeding ₹1.6 lakh crore. Highly placed sources in the Secretariat in Amaravati indicated that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) had already been signed with the APEDB, signalling steady progress toward project finalisation. Sources also said that RIL had asked for about 900 acres of land.

Official announcement

Sources also said that the government was likely to officially announce the development in the second or third week of May.

Officials said that the upcoming data centre complex would be built to global standards, incorporating high-density AI-ready racks, dedicated power substations, and redundant power supply systems.

It is also expected to feature robust connectivity infrastructure to cater to hyperscalers, enterprise clients, cloud service providers, and emerging artificial intelligence workloads.

With back-to-back mega investments, Andhra Pradesh is aiming to transform Visakhapatnam into a leading destination for next-generation digital infrastructure and AI-driven industries.

'Airlines at shutdown risk amid fuel price shock'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, has warned that the sector is under "extreme stress", with some airlines on the "verge of shutting down", and has sought urgent relief on fuel pricing ahead of the next monthly revision on May 1.

The industry body has proposed a "crack band" pricing mechanism similar to the one introduced during COVID-19, under which oil marketing companies (OMCs) would still recover higher crude costs along with reasonable refining margins. The "crack spread", or the margins oil companies earn for refining crude into jet fuel, has surged dramatically from $11-18 per barrel earlier to over $130 per barrel now, driving ATF prices far above crude oil trends that rose from $72 per barrel to $118, the letter stated. While on April 1 the government tried to provide some relief to airlines by ensuring only a 25% increase in ATF price for domestic flights, the FIA says international services have become "impractical" due to which there were "significant losses".

'Temasek, Canada's fund eye stake sale in NSE IPO'

Reuters
MUMBAI

Singapore's State-owned investor Temasek and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board are among 20 investors looking to sell stakes when National Stock Exchange (NSE) goes public this year, sources said.

Maruti Q4 net slips 7% on metal prices

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's biggest car maker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. reported fourth quarter net profit slid 7% year-on-year to ₹3,590 crore on account of a steep rise in commodity prices [metal costs have risen 2%] and mark-to-market losses on debt instrument investments, chairman R.C. Bhargava said.

Sales income at ₹50,079 crore grew 29%. In Q4, the firm recorded its highest-ever quarterly sales of 6,76,209 units, up 11.8%.

Domestic sales stood at 538,994 units and exports at an all-time high of 137,215 units. The board recommended a dividend of ₹140 per share for the year compared with ₹135 per share in previous year.

For the full year, net profit grew by only 1% to ₹14,445 crore.

Annual sales income grew 20% to ₹1,74,370 crore. "This performance was made possible because of a steep growth in the local market in the second half of the year owing to GST reduction," he said.

Sales were restricted by a limitation in output capacity as evidenced by about 1,90,000 pending orders at year end.

In addition, the dealer inventory was at a low of about 12 days' stock.

For the full year, the firm achieved a record total sales of 2,422,713 units.

He said the war in West Asia has had minimal impact on the car market in India on high demand from Indian customers.

"Nothing much adverse impact is happening here.

This year, the firm is making a capital investment of ₹14,000 crore to add capacity," he said.

Nayara Energy likely to restart mid-May

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, which closed for maintenance on April 9, is expected to recommence operations somewhere in the middle of May, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas told reporters here.

Amid the West Asia tensions, India has increased domestic production of the largely imported cooking gas to about 46,000 tons a day.

While Nayara Energy's domestic supply of LPG is marginal, the Vadinar refinery's return to operations after the planned maintenance is expected to relieve strained supplies.

TMB Q4 net surges 28%, to pay ₹12.50 final dividend

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) reported a 28% year on year growth in net profit for the quarter ended March 31 to ₹374 crore. The board recommended the payment of final dividend of ₹12.50 per equity share.

'PLI plan warps 2W market, junks innovation-led firms'

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The PLI scheme aimed to boost local manufacturing.

A new report says the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for two-wheelers has distorted the auto market by driving growth while sidelining innovation-led manufacturers, even as the Centre argues that many such startups lack the capital and market access to scale.

Non-PLI entities' sales growth rate slid from 407% in FY22 to -33% in FY24 and -11% in FY25. This shift coincided with a reordering of market leadership, at the expense of the industry's innovation engine, says the Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research in its report titled "Impact assessment of auto PLI on two-wheeler EV industry".

Outside PLI framework

On innovation, the report highlights much of the patent activity and new product development has come from firms outside the PLI framework. Many PLI beneficiaries avoided hard-to electrify segments like electric motorcycles.

In contrast, non-PLI firms are leading development in high-performance and electric motorcycle platforms, but face funding constraints and lack of production-linked support, limiting their ability to scale, states the report.

However, a senior government official said there was no proposal to unveil a separate PLI scheme for startups in the automotive sector.

"Ministry of MSMEs has many policies [for such startups]. But they lack capital, market access and R&D," the official stated

The report comes amid demands from players like Ather Energy which said the PLI scheme must include specialised EV manufacturers, arguing the current high revenue thresholds and rigid criteria favour legacy automakers and exclude pure-EV startups.

Launched in 2021, the auto PLI scheme aims to boost local manufacturing, cut imports, and position India as a global hub for future mobility. It focuses on Advanced Automotive Technology products such as electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and key components like advanced batteries and power electronics.

The government has set an overall investment target of about ₹42,500 crore for the auto sector under the PLI scheme.

Eligibility criteria for vehicle makers require a minimum global revenue of ₹10,000 crore and a commitment to invest at least ₹3,000 crore in India.

Sops under the scheme are linked to incremental sales over a defined base year. Firms must also reach at least 50% domestic value addition to qualify.

Monitoring cell set up by Textile Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Textile Ministry has set up a monitoring cell to examine ways to support the industry, especially manmade fibre sector, impacted by the West Asia crisis.

The Ministry is holding weekly meetings with export promotion councils, domestic industry associations, regional clusters and State government officials, as per a press statement.

GAIL has indicated that both the textiles and handicraft sectors have been prioritised with supplies maintained at 80% of the past six months' average consumption. This follows the Textiles Ministry's request to the Centre seeking assured supply of natural gas to these sectors.

The Ministry took up lifting Customs Duty with the Revenue Department on manmade fibre inputs while batting for removal/deferment of anti-dumping levy on elastomeric filament yarn and viscose rayon filament yarn.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805

E-Tender Notice : TN-383 (RVU2627GLOB00167)

Online tenders are invited for Supply, ETC of Battery Banks and buyback of existing battery banks of C&I at SSCTPP, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites **http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/1658 RVUN/PR-4385 Project Head (STPS-SC)

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites expression of interest (EoI) for the following Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) from eligible consultants:

1. **Consulting services: Hiring of Agri-Finance Specialist**

Last date of submission of EoI is **23rd May 2026,11:00 AM**
The tender Document can be downloaded from KERA website (**https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications**)
starting from **24th April 2026, 10:00 AM**.

Sd/- Project Director

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2026-27 Date: 22.04.2026

Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-AMC-2/2026-27

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialised firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Electrical Contractors** are eligible to apply for the work of **"Comprehensive AMC for HVAC systems in Biological Science, Physics, NeuroScience, Nano Science Buildings, Main Building and NSSC Tata Auditorium in IISc, Bangalore."** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.50,00,547/-**. Last date of receipt of application is **12th May 2026 at 15:30 Hrs**. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail: **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

Sd/-, Registrar

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR REPAIRING & TILE WORK OF 2 STV'S AT PHASE-II AIR HEATER (AH) STRUCTURE AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka Vagra,
Distt. Bharuch 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel No: 02641-670232/233/235/231
E-mail id:- **c&p_dahej@petronetlng.in, sumitkumar@petronetlng.in**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2026-27 Date: 22.04.2026

Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-ELE-01/2026-27

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialised firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Electrical Contractors** (or) The bidder shall be the **Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or its Authorised Agency.** Documentary proof of OEM authorisation letter from OEM must be submitted with the application are eligible to apply for the work of **"Lightning Protection system for Main Building at IISc."** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.18,84,954/-** Last date of receipt of application is **12th May 2026 at 15:30 Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail: **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

Sd/-, Registrar

LONDON

U.K. PM's former top aide says sorry over appointment of Mandelson

AP

Morgan McSweeney, former Chief of Staff to U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, said on Tuesday that he made a "a serious mistake" by recommending Peter Mandelson, a scandal-tainted friend of Jeffrey Epstein, be made British Ambassador to the U.S., but denied pressuring officials to ignore security concerns. AP

WASHINGTON

Trump hails British as 'friends' as King Charles begins U.S. state tour

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said the U.S. has "no closer friends" than the British, as he welcomed King Charles III to the White House on a state visit overshadowed by tensions over the Iran war. King Charles will address the U.S. Congress and is expected to call in his speech for "reconciliation and renewal" amid strains in ties. AFP

MEXICO CITY

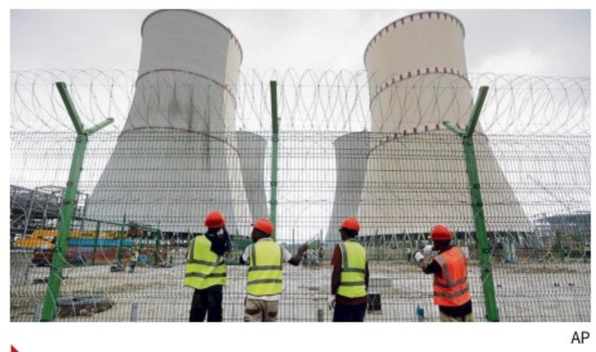
Mexico captures top cartel leader in blow to Jalisco crime syndicate

REUTERS

Mexican authorities announced the capture of two top criminals, one of them a close ally of Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera, the slain founder of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel and his potential successor. Audias Flores Silva, nicknamed "The Gardener" (El Jardinero), was seen as one of the possible successors. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh starts fuelling its first nuclear plant in landmark move



AP

Bangladesh has begun loading uranium fuel into its first nuclear power station on Tuesday, a key step towards bringing the 2,400 MW plant online to ease pressure on the overstretched power grid. The Rooppur nuclear plant, built with loans from Russia, could meet 10% of the power demands of the South Asian nation. AFP

Seven killed, dozens wounded after Pakistani strikes in Afghan province

Taliban officials say missiles struck civilian facilities which Pakistan dismissed as a 'blatant lie'; the attack was the first violent incident since peace talks earlier this month; Islamabad accuses Taliban regime of sheltering militants which Kabul denies

Associated Press
KABUL

Mortars and missiles fired from Pakistan on Monday struck a university and civilian homes in northeastern Afghanistan, killing seven people and wounding at least 85, Taliban officials said.

Pakistan denied the accusation of targeting a university.

The strikes were the first violent incident since Chinese-mediated peace talks between the two sides earlier this month.

Both countries had been embroiled in months of deadly fighting that has killed hundreds of people since late February, when Afghanistan launched a cross-border attack on Pakistan in retaliation for airstrikes inside Afghanistan.

Toll of truce: An Afghan boy receives medical treatment after being injured in Pakistani shelling in Asadabad on Tuesday. AFP

Afghan deputy government spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said Monday's attack took place in Asadabad, the capital of Kunar Province, as well as various areas in another district in the province.

'War crime'

Authorities said the death toll stood at seven, with 85 people wounded.

Mr. Fitrat said the wounded included women, children and students at the Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani University, and described the attacks as "an unforgivable war crime, barbarity, and provocative act."

Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education said about 30 students and professors were injured in the strike on the university, which it said had caused extensive damage to the facility.

In a statement, Pakistan's Information Ministry said that "Pakistan's targeting is precise and intelligence based. No strike has been carried out on the said university. The claims are frivolous and fake."

Afghan and Pakistani officials met in Urumqi, China in early April, and had agreed not to escalate their conflict and "explore a comprehensive solution," Beijing had said after mediating the talks.

On Saturday, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi described the recent negotiations in China as "positive."

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harbouring militants that carry out deadly attacks inside Pakistan, especially the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. Kabul denies the charge.

Israel using water access as a weapon in Gaza: MSF report

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Parched souls: Displaced Palestinian children wait to refill canisters with water at a refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. AFP

Israeli authorities are systematically depriving people in Gaza of the water they need to live, Doctors Without Borders warned on Tuesday, decrying a campaign of "collective punishment" against Palestinians.

The extensive destruction of civilian water infrastructure in Gaza coupled with obstruction of access constitutes "an integral part of Israel's genocide", said the medical charity, which goes by its French acronym MSF.

In a report entitled "Water as a Weapon", MSF said the "engineered scarcity" was occurring alongside "direct killing of civilians, the devastation of health facilities, (and) the destruction of homes".

Together, this amounted to "the deliberate infliction of destructive and inhumane conditions of life on the Palestinian population in Gaza", warned the report, based on testimonies and data MSF collected in 2024 and 2025.

"Israeli authorities know that without water, life ends," MSF emergency manager Claire San Filippo said in a statement.

"Yet they have deliberately and systematically obliterated water infrastructure in Gaza, whilst consistently blocking water-related supplies from entering."

The report, which was slammed by Israel, pointed to data from the UN, EU and World Bank indicating that Israel had destroyed or damaged nearly 90% of water and sanitation infrastructure in Gaza.

Explosions rock capital Kyiv, six killed in Russia, Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Explosions echoed over Kyiv on Tuesday during a rare daytime Russian drone attack on the capital, after the two sides launched strikes that left six dead.

A major oil refinery in southern Russia was set ablaze, triggering a local state of emergency as thick black smoke billowed over the coastal town of Tuapse.

Russia has pummelled Ukrainian cities mainly by launching long-range aerial barrages at night.

Kyiv officials announced that air defence systems were operating against Russian drones flying over the city and that two people were hurt in the attack.

Ukrainian authorities meanwhile said two people were killed in the central Dnipropetrovsk region and in the eastern Kharkiv region.

Ukraine's interceptor systems shot down more than 33,000 Russian drones in March, says Minister

A Ukrainian drone attack earlier killed three people in the Russian border region of Belgorod and one more in the neighbouring Bryansk region.

Kyiv confirmed its forces had targeted oil facilities in Tuapse. "This production is involved in supplying Russia's Army in Ukraine," it said.

Footage published online by the Krasnodar regional governor showed fire and thick smoke at the site of the Tuapse oil refinery.

Kyiv and Moscow have stepped up their aerial attacks over recent months, with both sides mainly targeting energy infrastructure.

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday its air defences overnight intercepted 186 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the annexed Crimea and the Black and the Azov seas.

Ukraine's Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov said the country's interceptor systems shot down more than 33,000 Russian drones of various types in March, a record monthly figure since Moscow invaded the country more than four years ago.

(With inputs from Associated Press)

Iraq appoints newcomer as next PM amid U.S. pressure

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

Iraq's newly-elected President Nizar Amede nominated businessman and political newcomer Ali al-Zaidi as Prime Minister-designate on Monday, after the country's leaders yielded to U.S. pressure not to support the bid of a former premier close to Iran.

The Coordination Framework, an alliance of Shia factions, had initially backed Nouri al-Maliki but an ultimatum by U.S. President Donald Trump left Iraqi leaders looking elsewhere.

Mr. Zaidi has 30 days to form a government – a daunting task in a country where constitutional deadlines are rarely respected.

'Just peace' can't be achieved through organisations seeking 'fees': Baerbock

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

"Just peace" cannot be achieved by seeking membership in organisations that charge a joining "fee", said Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday in response to a question on the Board of Peace for Gaza Strip established by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Speaking to journalists here, Ms. Baerbock cautioned against "unilateral use of force" while arguing that member states of the UN can mobilise themselves for an institutional action against a state that is accused of genocide by bringing the matter to the UN Security Council.

Annalena Baerbock

"Because every country, no matter how big or small, how powerful or rich has a seat at the table, because you will not find just peace for anybody in the world if you have to pay the fee to join it. We are witnessing growing geopolitical tensions, increasing fragmentation, and pressure on the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, development, and human rights".

The Board of Peace has 28 countries as the 'founding members' of the group that is tasked with stopping the war in Gaza where Israel has been carrying out a military campaign following the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas. A draft concept note of the board had mentioned that members would have to pay $1billion to be part of the group.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* on the U.S. targeting and kidnapping President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, Ms. Baerbock said "use of force is prohibited by the Charter." She said that every person is supposed to enjoy human rights and if those rights are endangered then member states are supposed to follow the process mentioned in the Charter.

"Unilateral action is a violation of the UN Charter. Because the Charter is not optional. It is an obligation for every member state to protect peace and security around the world and protect sovereignty of every member," said Ms. Baerbock.

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
B-Smile
Office of the Project Engineer-01,
No. 30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area,
Vasanthnagara, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: B-SMILE/PE-01/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 27-04-2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA, Bengaluru invites Proposals from registered Firms / Agencies / Individuals for **Man Power** who have relevant experience in doing similar nature of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Office Staff and Support Staff for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 28.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 28,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-04-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **06-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **12-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **13-05-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining Approval for Technical Evaluation.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA.

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
B-Smile
Office of the Project Engineer-09, GBA Head Office,
Annexe-02, Ground Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: B-SMILE/PE-09/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 28-04-2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Project Engineer-09, B-SMILE, GBA, Bengaluru invites Proposals from registered Firms / Agencies / Individuals for **Project Management Consultants** who have relevant experience in doing similar nature of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services to the works taken up under **Sancharayukta Scheme** by B-SMILE in Bengaluru West City Limits for the works **1)** Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve Buffer Zone including Formation of Kerekodi Road from V-Legacy Road to R.R. Nagara Arch in Bengaluru West City Corporation Limits. **2)** Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve Buffer Zone including Formation of Service Road from Nayandanahalli Circle to V-Legacy Road in Bengaluru West City Corporation Limits. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 34.60, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 34,600/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-04-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **06-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **12-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **13-05-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining Approval for Technical Evaluation.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Project Engineer-09, B-SMILE, GBA.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the original title documents with respect to property bearing **Survey No.204 (New Sy. No. 204/1) originally measuring 25 Guntas and (presently measuring an extent of 24 Guntas) situated at Kuduvati Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District. ("Schedule Property") owned by Mr. Sanjiv Kumar Mukherjee, S/o. Late Aloke Nath Mukherjea, Residing at Flat no 23, Palace Orchard Apartment, 9th Main, 6th cross, RMV extension, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru - 560080 (Owner) are lost. The Owner has lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional Police on 15/04/2026 regarding the loss of title deeds.**

Anybody transacting in respect of the Schedule Property with any person other than Owner shall be doing so at their own risk and the Owner shall not be responsible for the same in any manner. Any person/s locating/finding the aforesaid documents may kindly deliver the same at the address given below.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Survey No.204 (new survey no 204/1) measuring an extent of 25 (presently measuring 24 Guntas) situated in Kuduvati Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District, which was earlier bound as follows:

East by : Property bearing Sy. No. 205
West by : Land belonging to Basoor Saab
North by: Remaining extent of land in the same Sy. No. 204
South by: Government Halla

And presently having been converted for Resturant - Agricultural purposes vide official memorandum bearing No. 803965 Dated 28/10/2025 and presently bound as follows-

East by : Survey No. 205/2 and Road
West by : Road
North by : Remaining extent of land in Survey No. 204
South by : Road

Advocate,
Narasimhan Sampath
Aequalis Attorneys,
F102, #37/2, 1st Floor,
Chicago Avenue, Cunningham road
Bengaluru – 560052
Ph : 9108980980

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client, Mr. ASHOK KUMAR AMMANATH, aged about 55 years, S/o. Late Gopala Krishna Menon, Aadhaar No. 7709 0014 5995, PAN NUMBER: AOPPA4750G, Passport Number: Z3796695, residing at Anaka House, Diwan Narayana Menon Road, P.O., Thrissur City, Kerala – 680 020, is the absolute owner of the property described in the Item No. 1 and Item No.2 of the schedule below, having acquired the same through a Sale Deed dated 25.09.2009, registered as document No. VRT-1-02469-2009-10, Stored in C D No. VRTD51, Book 1, in the Office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore.

The name of my client in the above said Sale Deed dated 25.09.2009 and BDA Khata bearing PID No. 6000000155 and 6000006196 respectively, was wrongly spelt as Ashok Kumar instead of Ashok Kumar Ammanath and his father's name also wrongly mentioned as M.G. Menon, instead of Gopal Krishna Menon.

My client has executed a Declaration by way of Affidavit on 23.03.2026, in order to confirm and rectify that the names such as Ashok Kumar, son of M.G. Menon and Ashok Kumar Ammanath, son of Gopala Krishna Menon are one and the same. The said Declaration was registered as Document No. INR-1-10088-2025-26, in the office of Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar (Indiranagar). Consequently, an application for the name correction has been filed with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), East Division.

If any person has any objection, claim, or right over the said property or against the proposed name correction, they are hereby required to lodge the same in writing along with supporting documents to the Office of Assistant Revenue Officer, East Division, Bengaluru, within 15 days from the date of this publication. If no objections are received within the stipulated period, the BDA will proceed with the name correction as requested, and subsequent claims shall not be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO. 1: All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant site bearing No. 59, carved out of Sy. No. 54/2, (converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 6/2/2009, bearing No. ALN. (EVH). SR. 294/2007-08, and No. ALN.(EVH). SR.369/ 2008-09, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore,) situated at Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formerly Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, presently under the jurisdiction of Bangalore Development Authority bearing PID No. 6000000155, in the residential layout known as "RELIAABLE SILVEROAK", with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever, hereunder or underneath or above the surface, measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq. Feet., and bounded as follows :East by : Road; West by:Site No. 56; North by: Site No. 58; South by: Site No. 60.

ITEM No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant site bearing No. 60, carved out of Sy. No. 54/2, (converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 6/2/2009, bearing No. ALN. (EVH). SR. 294/2007-08, and No. ALN.(EVH). SR.369/ 2008-09, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore,) situated at Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formerly Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, presently under the jurisdiction of Bangalore Development Authority bearing PID No. 6000006196, in the residential layout known as "RELIAABLE SILVEROAK", with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever, hereunder or underneath or above the surface, measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq. Feet., and bounded as follows : East by : Road; West by : Site No. 55; North by : Site No. 59; South by: Site No. 61.

Dated this 29 th day of April, 2026, at Bangalore,

RASHMI D., ADVOCATE,
No. 276, Ground Floor, 12th Main,
5th Cross, Sector -5, HSR Layout,
Bangalore - 560 102.Ph:+91-9480492319.

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SUSPENSE CONTINUES

Rohit undergoes fitness drills, skips nets session on match eve

PTI

The suspense over Rohit Sharma's participation against SRH continued with the veteran batter undergoing fitness drills at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. The MI star has been sidelined ever since hurting his right hamstring against RCB on April 12. Rohit, who will turn 39 on Thursday, didn't bat in the evening session.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Kohli is the greatest batter the IPL has ever seen: McClenaghan

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Former NZ pacer Mitchell McClenaghan has lavished praise on Virat Kohli, calling him the most consistent performer in the history of the IPL. "He will soon reach 10,000 runs, without a doubt. Kohli is the greatest batter the IPL has ever seen, not just for the runs, but for how he has evolved and dominated across different eras".

BREEZY WIN

Dominant East Bengal makes short work of Odisha in the ISL

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

East Bengal FC defeated Odisha FC 3-0 in an Indian Super League fixture at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa on Tuesday. After Bipin Singh's 11th-minute strike, Youssef Ezzejjari drove home the advantage with his second-half brace (70, 83). EBFC is fourth with 18 points from nine games. OFC is 13th (six points in nine matches).

LATEST UPDATE

Kothari masters Advani to retain IBSF World billiards crown

FILE PHOTO

Sourav Kothari continued his reign as the IBSF World billiards champion by getting the better of Pankaj Advani 1133-477 in the summit clash that lasted just over 205 minutes at Carlow, Ireland, on Tuesday. Kothari had a highest break of 485 while Advani pulled off a 141 break. Kothari won $5000, while Advani got $2500.

Ferreira and Shubham combine to end Punjab Kings' unbeaten streak

The two plunder 77 off 32 balls for the unbroken fifth wicket to help Rajasthan Royals chase down the 223-run target; JaiSurya pair sizzles

IPL-19

Sahil Mathur
NEW CHANDIGARH

Donovan Ferreira and Shubham Dubey combined to outdo Marcus Stoinis' stunning knock as Rajasthan Royals broke Punjab Kings' winning streak in IPL 2026 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

Royals needed 72 runs in the last six overs and finished the 223-run chase with four balls to spare and six wickets in hand to register their sixth win of the season.

The pitch assisted the slower bowlers. But once Yuzvendra Chahal and Harpreet Brar finished their quota by the 14th over, Ferreira and Impact Player Shubham got RR back into the game by making use of the pace.

While Ferreira slammed an unbeaten 52 off 26 deliveries (6x4, 3x6), Shubham remained unbeaten on 31 (12b, 3x4, 2x6). Ferreira finished it off with a six.

Chahal removed Dhruv Jurel (16), Yashasvi Jaiswal (51), and Riyan Parag (29). At the same time, Harpreet conceded only 25 in his four overs to give Punjab control after RR openers JaiSurya once again displayed a fearless approach.

The visiting side amassed 84 for the loss of Vaibhav Suryavanshi in the PowerPlay.

Suryavanshi whipped five sixes and three fours en route a 16-ball 43, showing off his smooth wrists and bat swing. Jaiswal sent the ball eight times to the fence, including one maximum, to put pressure on the bowlers.

A strong start and a finish made sure poor batting in the middle overs didn't hurt Royals.

Earlier, Stoinis' quick-fire half-century late in the innings powered PBKS to 222 for four.

Stoinis made use of the bounce on offer and displayed his back-foot range, hitting six maximums and four fours in his unbeaten 22-ball 62.

The Australian slammed 24 off Brijesh Sharma in the final over after taking on Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger.

Prabhsimran Singh scored a 35-ball half-century, filled with authoritative strokes all over the park, to anchor Punjab's innings in the first half. He found able support in cameos from Priyansh Arya's 11-ball 29 and Cooper Connolly's 30 off 14 balls. Stoinis took over the hitting duties in the 15th over to ensure a stylish finish, but Royals had other plans and spoiled the Kings party.

Stellar show: Impact Player Shubham joined hands with Ferreira to take Royals home in the final over. Leggie Yash Raj's twin strike put the brakes on the Kings innings before Stoinis' late blitz took them to 222 for four. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Prabhsimran Singh c Parag b Yash Raj 59 *(44b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Priyansh Arya c Burger b Archer 29 *(11b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Cooper Connolly c Ferreira b Yash Raj 30 *(14b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Jurel b Burger 30 *(27b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 62 *(22b, 4x4, 6x6)*, Suryansh Shedge (not out) 3 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-4, b-4, w-1): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 222.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-37 (Priyansh, 2.5 overs), 2-96 (Connolly, 8.2), 3-144 (Prabhsimran, 13.6), 4-181 (Shreyas, 17.6).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 4-0-40-1, Burger 4-0-59-1, Brijesh 4-0-42-0, Yash Raj 4-0-41-2, Jadeja 4-0-32-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Shedge b Chahal 51 *(27b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Shreyas b Arshdeep 43 *(16b, 3x4, 5x6)*, Dhruv Jurel c Jansen b Chahal 16 *(20b, 1x6)*, Riyan Parag c Shedge b Chahal 29 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Donovan Ferreira (not out) 52 *(26b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Shubham Dubey **(Impact Player for Yash Raj)** (not out) 31 *(12b, 3x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-1, nb-1, w-4): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 19.2 overs): 228.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-51 (Suryavanshi, 3.2), 2-105 (Jurel, 9.4), 3-123 (Jaiswal, 11.2), 4-151 (Parag, 13.6).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-68-1, Ferguson 4-0-57-0, Jansen 3.2-0-41-0, Harpreet Brar **(Impact Player for Priyansh)** 4-0-25-0, Chahal 4-0-36-3.

Toss: Royals; **PoM:** Ferreira.
Royals won by six wickets with four balls to spare.

Next assignment

RR: May 1 vs. DC
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 3 vs. GT
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

J-factor: Jacks' inclusion will provide a fillip to MI. PTI

Inconsistent MI takes on a settled SRH

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians finds itself staring at an all-too-familiar mid-season abyss. Two wins in seven games, a churn of combinations and a campaign yet to find rhythm – the five-time champion heads into Wednesday's clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium with its back firmly against the wall.

In contrast, SRH has surged into the top four, riding on a settled combination and an imposing batting unit, with the exception of Travis Head. The contrast in trajectories could not be starker.

For MI, it has been a season of nearly there and abrupt collapses. The batting has flattered to deceive, the bowling has oscillated between incisive and erratic, and the constant shuffling – as many as 20 players used – has prevented any sense of continuity. The absence of Rohit Sharma due to injury has only compounded matters, while Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya are yet to hit their straps.

There is, however, a flicker of hope. The arrival of Will Jacks offers balance, particularly against a line-up stacked with left-handers.

The visitor, on the other hand, has found clarity in roles. Its top-order has been assertive, middle-order effective, and the bowling unit has improved with every passing game. The Hyderabad outfit arrives not just with points on the board, but with momentum and a fit-and-raring captain Pat Cummins, who looked good in his maiden appearance.

At the Wankhede, where run-fests are more the norm than an exception, the contest could well be decided in the Power-Play.

MI's inability to set the tone early – both with bat and ball – has hurt it repeatedly. Against an SRH side that thrives on fast starts, that phase assumes even greater significance. If Head, the sleeping giant, wakes up in tailor-made conditions, the visiting outfit could deal a virtual knockout blow to MI.

As it is, MI is in quest of rediscovering consistency or risk slipping out of contention. For SRH, it is about consolidating a strong position.

Abhishek plans meticulously: Franklin

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

If there is one constant in Sunrisers Hyderabad's surge in IPL 2026, it has been the uninhibited flair of Abhishek Sharma. With a tally of 380 from eight matches, the left-hander sits atop the run charts as of Monday – a testament to his range and method.

Ahead of Wednesday's clash against Mumbai Indians, SRH assistant coach James Franklin indicated that Abhishek's preparation is as meticulous as his audacious strokeplay.

"Abhishek is very detailed with how he prepares for oppositions. He will know and understand what MI's bowlers will try and present to him, particularly in the PowerPlay," Franklin said.

Abhishek had fallen to a slower-ball ploy from Lucknow Super Giants pacer Mohammed Shami, prompting questions about whether MI might attempt a similar trap. But Franklin suggested that the opener's strength lies in anticipation as much as execution.

"He likes to have conversations around different bowlers. He will be aware of potentially how they might come at him."

Against an MI attack searching for consistency, the contest against Jasprit Bumrah could once again set the tone. And if Abhishek's numbers are any indication, it is a challenge he appears well-equipped to meet.

Today's match

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 25
MI 15 | SRH 10

PREVIOUS MEETING
MI won by **seven wickets**, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Impact Index

Jaiswal

1 Punjab Kings lost its first match of IPL 2026

1 This was the biggest chase in T20s at New Chandigarh, bettering the 219 hunted down by PBKS against SRH earlier this season

2 Arshdeep (1/68) bowled the second-most expensive spell for PBKS after Bartlett (1/69 vs. DC, 2026)

3 Royals have won all three games against Kings at New Chandigarh

5 The number of matches Shreyas has lost as captain while defending 200-plus targets

8 Kings' losses while defending 200-plus scores, the most in the league

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	8	6	1	1	13	1.043
Royal Challengers	8	6	2	0	12	1.919
Rajasthan Royals	9	6	3	0	12	0.617
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	0	8	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	0	6	-1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

Indian women lose to China, crash out

Press Trust of India
HORSENS (DENMARK)

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu squandered a strong position as India went down 0-5 to China to end its campaign at the Uber Cup Finals on Monday.

All eyes will now be on the men's team to avenge the loss when it takes on China on Wednesday in Thomas Cup.

India, the 2022 champion, sealed a place in the quarterfinals with a 5-0 victory over Australia in a Group-A tie. The winner will top the group.

The result: Uber Cup: China bt India 5-0 [Wang Zhiyi bt P.V. Sindhu 21-16, 19-21, 21-19; Liu Sheng Shu & Tan Ning bt Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra 21-11, 21-8; Chen Yufei bt Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-13; Luo Xu Min and Zhang Shu Xian bt Tanisha Crasto & Kavipriya Selvam 10-21, 21-12, 21-19; Xu Wen Jing bt Devika Sihag 19-21, 21-17, 21-10)].

I didn't want to quit: Barwal on pushing through till the finish

ATHLETICS

Anirudh Velamuri

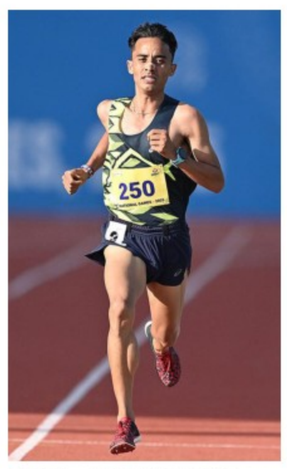
At the Rotterdam Marathon earlier this month, Sawan Barwal timed 2:11:58 on his marathon debut, breaking a 48-year-old National record set by Shivnath Singh. Yet, for a brief, dramatic stretch, it looked as though that long-standing mark might survive.

With the finish line within reach, Barwal stumbled and collapsed.

Valiant effort

But he valiantly got back on his feet, with help from a race volunteer, and pushed through in the final phase to etch his name in Indian athletics history.

"Till the 40-kilometre mark, I was on pace. But in the last two kilometres, I struggled a bit. When I entered the last 100 metres, I could see the clock near the finish line and knew that my pace was within the national record," Barwal told *The Hindu*.



Barwal... a record-breaker.
FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

"I had 15 to 20 seconds to complete the last 50m and finish around the 11.35-11.40 mark. But I fell, got up and fell again with only 30m left. When there were about 10 to 12 seconds left, my eyes were only on the timing."

The 28-year-old, who averaged just over three minutes per kilometre, needed nearly a minute and a half to cover the final 100m. "I have sacrificed so much. So it is important to finish, even if I get hospitalised. As an Army person, I didn't want to quit."

Barwal also kept a close watch on the London Marathon, where Sebastian Sawe dipped under the two-hour mark to set a new world record. He felt the runners in London followed a pattern similar to his own in Rotterdam.

"If you see the first half, it is slower than the second. In the interviews, they (the runners) said that their runs were well paced but that they struggled a bit in the last two kilometers. They were feeling a little uncomfortable".

INBRIEF

Kothari to defend World billiards title against Advani

For the second straight year, the final of the IBSF World billiards championship will be an all-Indian affair with champion Sourav Kothari taking on Pankaj Advani. In the semifinals at Carlow (Ireland) on Tuesday, Advani outclassed England's Robert Hall 1184-420 to make his ninth straight final, while Kothari rallied to score a 633-443 victory over compatriot Dhvaj Haria.

Quarterfinal results: Advani bt Martin Goodwill (Eng) 755-356; Hall bt Siddharth Parikh 425-408; Haria bt S. Shrikrishna 459-376; Kothari bt David Causier (Eng) 757-498.

Indian table tennis team gets ₹90 lakh support

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) put in place a comprehensive support worth over ₹90 lakh to ensure the Indian table tennis team put its best foot forward at the centenary ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships, which got underway in London on Tuesday. The event is scheduled until May 10 at the OVO Arena in Wembley.

Atletico and Arsenal seek redemption in semifinals

Neither team has won the European title yet; Simeone's men have to dust off the Copa del Rey final loss whereas Arteta & Co. need to shift focus from the tight Premier League title race

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Atletico Madrid and Diego Simeone have regularly tasted the sting of disappointment, even in what is the club's golden age.

It hosts Arsenal on Wednesday in the Champions League semifinals, chasing redemption after its crushing Copa del Rey final defeat little over a week ago.

Tens of thousands of Atletico fans travelled down to Seville only to go home empty-handed, just as it did in the 2014 and 2016 Champions League finals against bitter rival Real Madrid.

Atletico has never won Europe's premier competition, also beaten in its other final appearance in 1974.

It can take a first step towards a fourth final against Mikel Arteta's side this week. In its first game back home after the Copa final disappointment, on Saturday against Athletic Bilbao, Atletico's fans gave the team a cold reception.

The Arsenal tie offers a route to immediate atonement, and by Wednesday, the atmosphere will be frenzied, intoxicating, as it was for the quarterfinal elimination of Barcelona.

Atletico is no longer at the Vicente Calderon, but the Metropolitano stadium is just as intense, louder still, with the increased capacity.

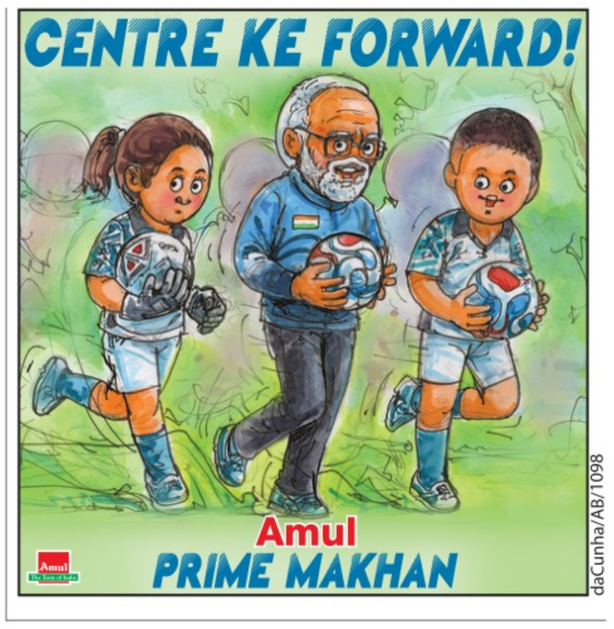
Gunners test awaits: Atletico will have high expectations from Griezmann. REUTERS

The Rojiblancos' support is the loudest in Spain and Simeone called on them to give his team the edge against the Premier League leader.

What is non-negotiable for Simeone is his team's intensity, work-rate and competitiveness, and capacity to suffer when they need to against superior opponents. "We've reached this point by competing the way we have – nothing has stopped us so far," said Simeone.

Atletico's all-time top goalscorer Antoine Griezmann added: "It will be a very important match (against Arsenal), we have to be calm, relaxed, knowing that we can do it. I'm enjoying these last few games here. I hope I can gift something incredible to the fans."

As Simeone observed, for all the sweat and grit his team has offered, the gift it needs to give is silverware.



SNAPSHOTS

Man United close in on Champions League spot
MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Casemiro and Benjamin Sesko struck first-half goals to secure a 2-1 Premier League home win over Brentford on Monday and take their side to the brink of Champions League football for the first time since the 2023-24 season. Third-placed United moved to 61 points, 11 ahead of sixth-placed Brighton & Hove Albion with four games left.
The results: Premier League: Manchester United 2 (Casemiro 11, Sesko 43) bt Brentford 1 (Jensen 87). **Serie A:** Cagliari 3 (Mendy 1, 8, Borelli 47) bt Atalanta 2 (Scamacca 40, 45); Lazio 3 (Pellegrini 50, Pedro 80, Maldini 90+5) drew with Udinese 3 (Ehizibue 18, Atta 86, 90+3). **LaLiga:** Espanyol 0 drew with Levante 0.

Vinesh. FILE PHOTO

Vinesh confirms registration for Open ranking event in U.P.
NEW DELHI: Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Tuesday confirmed that she has successfully registered for the upcoming ranking tournament at Gonda (U.P.) after claiming she was being blocked from competing by WFI.

Indian grapplers bag four gold medals
Indian grapplers impressed at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting and the Universal Cup (Senior) in Apia, Samoa, securing four gold medals on the second day. Sunil Singh lifted 271kg (126kg in snatch and 145kg in clean and jerk) to clinch the gold in the 65kg men, while Aisangfa Gogoi won the top prize in women's 58kg and Abhinob Gogoi bagged the yellow metal in men's 71kg division. Aisangfa lifted 185kg (79kg in snatch and 106kg in clean and jerk) to bag gold, while Abhinob totalled 284kg (129kg in snatch and 155kg in clean and jerk) to secure top finish. In the Universal Cup, Charu Pesi bagged gold in men's 65kg with 289kg (127kg in snatch and 162kg in clean and jerk).

Vismaya slapped with two-year suspension
Asian Games 4x400m relay gold-winning quartermiler V.K. Vismaya has been handed a two-year suspension by NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP), nearly two years after she tested positive for a banned substance. Sprinter N. Shanmuga Srinivas has been handed a four-year ban by ADDP from February 6, 2025 for "Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection".

Bernadette Szocs is the biggest buy at UTT Season 7 auction

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Big names commanded bigger bids as franchises zeroed in on proven performers and emerging Indian talent at the Butterfly Ultimate Table Tennis Season 7 player auction on Tuesday, with reigning champion Bernadette Szocs topping the charts.

Szocs, snapped up by Dempo Goa Challengers for 40 lakh tokens, headlined a list of marquee acquisitions that underlined the premium on experience.

Close behind was Diya Chitale, who became the highest-valued Indian for the second successive year, joining PBG Pune Jaguars for 37.4 lakh tokens.

UTT auctions are based on tokens as notional value, with players signing contracts with the league promoters for undisclosed amount.

The seventh edition will be played in Panaji, Goa from July 9 to 26.

The squads:

Ahmedabad APL Pipers: Adrien Rassenfosse (20,00,000 tokens), Sanil Shetty (3,20,000), Payas Jain (16,80,000), Sofia Polcanova (27,20,000), Manika Batra (27,00,000), Kavya Bhatt (32,00,00).

Dabang Delhi T.T.C.: Youssef Abdelaziz (12,00,000), G. Sathiyan (27,00,000), Raegan Albuquerque (3,00,000), Maria Xiao (27,20,000), Divyanshi Bhowmick (10,40,000), Sutirtha Mukherjee (8,00,000).

Dempo Goa Challengers: Alvaro Robles (22,80,000), Divyansh Srivastava (3,00,,000), P.B. Abhinandh (3,00,000), Bernadette Szocs (40,00,000), Syndrela Das (17,00,000), Ananya Chande (3,00,000). **Kolkata ThunderBlades:** Eduard Ionescu (24,20,000), Ankur Bhattacharjee (9,45,000), Jeet Chandra (7,00,000), Zeng Jian (20,00,000), Taneesha Kotecha (3,00,000), Ayhika Mukherjee (20,20,000).

PBG Pune Jaguars: Omar Assar (20,00,000), Snehit SFR (12,00,000), Mudit Dani (3,00,000), Prithika Pavade (24,80,000), Diya Chitale (37,40,000), Sayanika Maji (3,00,000).

U Mumba TT: Lilian Bardet (21,40,000), Akash Pal (9,45,000), Manush Shah (37,20,000), Anna Hursey (22,20,000), Nithyashree Mani (3,00,000), Anusha Kutumbale (3,00,000).

UP Prometheans: Ricardo Walther (12,00,000), Sudhanshu Grover (3,20,000), Manav Thakkar (36,00,000), Yangzi Liu (32,00,000), Sayali Wani (9,00,000), Swastika Ghosh (7,00,000).

Meet Rithika Sri, the first transgender umpire from TN

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association recently called out for applicants to appear for the State Panel Umpire exams. For the first time, the application form allowed a person to select 'Other' in the gender category, in addition to Male and Female. While it may look like a small change, it came thanks to the sheer grit and determination of a 31-year-old umpire from Coimbatore.

R. Rithika Sri is a transwoman from Salem who has been umpiring in the Salem and Coimbatore circuit since 2021 and has been instrumental in forcing this through.

Rithika is the first transgender umpire in Tamil Nadu. Born as R. Muthuraj, she is a diploma holder in Mechanical Engineering. The engineering dropout was working in Mohali at a call centre when she caught the umpiring bug while watching the IPL.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and forced her to return to her hometown, Rithika decided to become an umpire.

"I contacted the Salem District Cricket Association through social media. U. Jayaraman, the umpire committee chairman, played a key role in guiding me. I also have to credit two senior umpires, R. Parthasarathy and V. Santhi Booshan," Rithika told *The Hindu*.

It was around this time that Rithika was contemplating a gender transition. "Jayaraman sir and his wife advised me to establish myself as an umpire for a few years before transitioning. They were worried I would face discrimination otherwise," she added.

Rithika.

After deciding to undergo transition in Coimbatore in 2024, Rithika shifted to the CDCA league.

"The first time in Coimbatore, I went to watch because they wanted me to get familiar with the new district, but I was denied entry, and there were hurtful comments. I went back home crying after an hour, but not before fighting back. People often accuse trans people of begging, but then, they don't allow us to pursue a dignified livelihood. Can't a transperson become an umpire?" she asks.

It was then that CDCA secretary R. Chandramouli and joint secretary K. Mahalingam ensured no ground would discriminate against her. "CDCA informed all the grounds about me and ensured my safety."

Rithika says she wants to prove to society that a trans person can be successful in a variety of fields. "I don't think society is ever going to change, but still, I want to achieve something. My focus is now to clear the TNCA and BCCI exams".

Satyajit and Harschit hog the limelight

GYMNASTICS

Sports Bureau

Satyajit Mondal clinched the floor exercise and vault titles in the senior division men's apparatus finals of the National artistic gymnastics championships in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

Harschit Damodaran also shone in junior division by claiming gold medals in floor exercise, rings, vault and horizontal bar.

The results: Men: Senior: Floor exercise: 1. Satyajit Mondal (RSPB) 12.700 (higher e-score), 2. Sahil Yadav (Har) 12.700, 3. Niladri Sarkar (RSPB) 12.367; **Pommel horse:** 1. Siddharth Verma (RSPB) 13.067, 2. Sohom Majumder (WB) 12.800 (higher e-score), 3. S. Harikrishnan (SSCB) 12.800; **Rings:** 1. Adari Navin Sai Krishna (Cht) 13.067, 2. K.P. Swathish (RSPB) 13.000, 3. Omkar Shinde (Mah) 12.533; **Vault:** 1. Satyajit Mondal (RSPB) 13.450, 2. Uday Naidu (Kar) 13.117, 3. Tapeshwarnath Das (SSCB) 13.050; **Parallel bars:** 1. Gaurav Kumar (SSCB) 12,833, 2. Abhijeet Kumar (UP) 12.567, 3. Siddhant P. Konde (RSPB) 12.400; **Horizontal bar:** 1. Shayan Sharma (RSPB) 13.100, 2. Shreyas Chaudhari (SSCB) 11.767, 3. Tousif Rana Mondal (RSPB) 11.367.
Junior: Floor exercise: 1. Harschit Damodaran (UP) 12.767, 2. Sk. Nabhigh Ali (WB) 12.333, 3. Nishad Narvane (Mah) 12.033; **Pommel horse:** 1. Swarnim Jaiswal (MP) 12.467, 2. Sk. Nabhigh Ali (WB) 12.167, 3. Prasun Amalnerkar (Mah) 11.933; **Rings:** 1. Harschit Damodaran (UP) 11.833, 2. Nishad Narvane (Mah) 11.800, 3. Suman Dutta (WB) 11.633; **Vault:** 1. Harschit Damodaran (UP) 13.617, 2. Akshat Bajaj (Del) 12.867, 3. Soham Sagar Atre (UP) 12.400; **Parallel bars:** 1. Nishad Narvane (Mah) 12.367, 2. Tulin Tewary (Jha) 12.233, 3. Aaroh Sharma (Del) 12.200; **Horizontal bar:** 1. Harschit Damodaran (UP) 12.500, 2. Mod. Zaid Ansari (UP) 12.967, 3. Ishan (Har) 1.900.

Young batters are rewriting the grammar, but what of the poor bowlers?

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

I once met a Uruguayan football coach who told me this about Brazilian teams: "Sometimes even coaches don't understand what the players are doing on the field. Some of the passes and formations go beyond what the coach had drilled into the team, but these succeed spectacularly. And the coach takes the credit without quite knowing how it all happened."

I sense something similar is happening in the IPL. Watch some of the youngsters, and you wonder how they do some of the things they do even after hours of practising hitting the ball into the stands. I suspect we shall soon see the rules tweaked to give the bowlers a better chance in the format.

There are two kinds of batters, each successful in his own way. But the younger ones seem to be playing a different game altogether. Prudence is a pill they haven't heard of.

Adaptation

Watching the 15-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi in action, it is difficult to shake off that 'how-does-he-do-it?' feeling.

He greets Jasprit Bumrah and Josh Hazelwood with sixes, as if pre-ordained. More startling was the manner in which he played the first ball from Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the RCB match.

The ball seemed destined to swing into the left-hander who got into position quickly to cart it over square leg.

But it straightened, and the batter would have done well to drop it at his feet with a quick readjustment.

There was a quick readjustment alright, but Suryavanshi played a straight drive that hit the fence. It was an improbable response by a batter beaten by that delivery, and slightly off balance, but it is an indication of the new normal.

At 15, Suryavanshi judges length with assurance. He has the footwork of a ballet dancer that sees him balanced at all times. There is too the ability to play very early or very late, any one of which attribute would have made him exceptional. Anil Kumble doesn't think he should be rushed into the Indian team. But weigh that against playing a man when he is at his best and has the confidence of runs behind him.

I remember Sachin Tendulkar at 15. He had the gift of balance and hit the ball hard.

He understood his game and was a near-complete product in the classical mould by the time he made his Test debut at 16. Many thought then that he might have been pushed in too early, and there were jokes about his not being allowed to play One-Day Internationals because he had to be in bed by ten o'clock. But it didn't work out too badly.

We spoke of two kinds of batters. One, usually of an earlier generation, the Shreyas Iyers, the Rajat Patidars, the Phil Salts, the Rohit Sharmas, the K.L. Rahuls, stretch the limits of the traditional. A Sanju Samson or Virat Kohli makes nearly all their runs without frenzy and by playing textbook shots, only more often. Shubman Gill trusts his essentially first-class repertoire to score at a good clip.

Then there are the new kids on the block. Suryavanshi, Abhishek Sharma, Ayush Mhatre who have that how-did-they-do-it quality in their batting. I am not sure if their coaches understand that mindset; they are probably happy to leave them alone. When Rishabh Pant first appeared, the advice he received most often was "choose the right ball to hit."

It works splendidly in Test cricket, as Pant's success in that format has shown. But it seems inadequate for T20, where every ball is the right ball to hit.

After making a 67-ball 152, Rahul, one of our most intelligent and self-aware batters said he was "catching up with the modern demands of T20 cricket." Rahul who turned 34 this month, admitted that six-hitting was priority. "There's no time to say 'later'," he told the broadcasters after his knock.

Something has to give. Perhaps the tournament that introduced the strategic time-out and gave it a cricketing spin rather than a marketing convenience, can introduce a rule that states a batter is out if a catch is taken in the crowd. If you think that's silly, remember T20 itself was thought to be silly when it was first played.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Rivansh scalps six in Engrades CC's facile victory
Rivansh Mohapatra's six-wicket haul (6/9) helped Engrades CC record an eight-wicket win over Chintamani SA in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament.
The scores:
Chintamani SA 94 in 32.1 overs (Rivansh Mohapatra 6/9) lost to Engrades 97/2 in 14 overs.
Yankees 253 in 42.5 overs (Miraan Mahajan 82, Advik Srinivas 56, Syed Muhammad Syed Hussaini 4/32) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 185 in 37 overs (Syed Muhammad Ayaanullah Hussaini 66, Advik Srinivas 4/29).
Mount Joy 148 in 38.3 overs (Avik Jha 45, Ibrahim Khan 4/24) lost to Jawans 151/4 in 34 overs (M. Kanishk Reddy 64).
City Gymkhana 355/4 in 50 overs (S. Pushkar 39, Arnav N. Manchale 141, H.S. Siddharth 87, Vedant Shaurya 53 n.o.) bt Wilson Garden 82 in 27.2 overs (Hemanth Chandra Shekar 5/17).
Sangam CA 86 in 21.4 overs (Vinjamuri Rushyanth 5/31) lost to Social Cricketers 89/3 in 15.1 overs (Athreya Bhat 51 n.o.).
Sir Syed Cricketers 154 in 47.3 overs (A. Suraj Kumar 46, Sanchith Krishna Hanagud 5/35) lost to Palar SC, Kolar 156/5 in 30.2 overs.
BUCC (1) 303 in 47.4 overs (S.M. Bhavith 51, Vijay Hanumanthappa 64) bt Freelancers 172 in 41.3 overs (K.N. Nipun Devaiah 65, M. Thaman Sai 42, S.M. Bhavith 5/19).
Whirlwind Cricketers 265/9 in 50 overs (S. Suyog Gowda 91) bt Bangalore Occasionals 189/8 in 50 overs (S.M. Diyan Afsar 41).
Neptune CC 163/8 in 50 overs (Srinath Seshadri 54, Srijesh Parthiban 40, M. Neeraj 4/22) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 164/2 in 22.4 overs (Prabhav Pydah 79 n.o.).
Jawahar SC (1) 267 in 49.4 overs (C. Cheran Tej Raju 135) bt Jawahar SC (2) 142 in 34.1 overs (Nikhil G. Chethan 54, Y.S. Ayush 4/44).
Johnson 175 in 39.1 overs (Divyam Kumawat 46) lost to South End SC 176/7 in 29.3 overs (Arya Naveen 46).

Vivan wins u-16 chess crown
Vivan Metha, with 6.5 points out of 7, won the Champions Chess Academy U-16 category classical challenge tournament held here recently.
M. Avyukth came second with 5.5 points, finishing ahead of K.H. Chandrashekar, also on 5.5 but with an inferior tie-break score (31.5 to Avyukth's 32).

Bharath SU boys beat Dharwad District-A
Bharath SU beat Dharwad District-A 61-43 in a boys' super league match at the State sub-junior basketball championship on Tuesday. In a girls' category encounter, Bangalore Vanguards defeated Mysore District-A 43-35.